

BARRON'S

FRENCH GRAMMAR

Christopher
Kendris, Ph.D.

An In-Depth Reference:
Parts of Speech
Pronunciation
Verb Charts
Sentence Structure
Punctuation
Idioms

CHOICE IN LANGUAGE GUIDES

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*To the sweet memory of my mother
and to the memory of my father*

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Contents

Preface	vii
How to Use This Book	ix
The Basics	1
1. GUIDE TO PRONOUNCING FRENCH SOUNDS	1
2. CAPITALIZATION, PUNCTUATION MARKS, AND WORD DIVISION	4
The Parts of Speech	7
3. ARTICLES	7
3.1 Definite Article	7
3.2 Indefinite Article	12
3.3 Partitive	13
4. NOUNS	15
4.1 Gender	15
4.2 Plural of Nouns — The Basics	17
5. ADJECTIVES	19
5.1 Formation	19
5.2 Agreement	21
5.3 Position	22
5.4 Types	23
5.4-1 Descriptive	23
5.4-2 Demonstrative	23
5.4-3 Interrogative	24
5.4-4 Possessive	24
5.4-5 Comparative and Superlative	26
5.4-6 <i>Mieux</i> and <i>Mieux</i>	28
5.4-7 Adjectives Used in an Adverbial Sense	29

7.8-8 Past Indefinite Tense	83
7.8-9 Pluperfect Tense	83
7.8-10 Past Anterior Tense	84
7.8-11 Future Perfect Tense	84
7.8-12 Conditional Perfect Tense	85
7.8-13 Past Subjunctive Tense	86
7.8-14 Pluperfect Subjunctive Tense	86
7.8-15 Imperative Mood	87
7.9 Passive Voice	87
7.10 <i>Si</i> Clause: A Summary	89
7.11 Special Uses of Common Verbs	89
7.12 Other Verbs with Special Meanings	95
7.13 Infinitives	96
7.14 Causative (Causal) <i>Faire</i>	98
7.15 Subjunctive	99
7.16 Summary of Tenses and Moods	103
7.17 Spelling Irregularities of Some Common Verbs	103
7.18 Basic Negations of Verbs	116
7.19 Four Conjugated Verbs	118
8. ADVERBS	123
Definition	123
8.1 Formation	123
8.2 Position	124
8.3 Types	124
8.3-1 Interrogative Adverbs	124
8.3-2 Adverbs of Quantity	125
8.3-3 Comparative and Superlative Adverbs	125
8.4 <i>Oui</i> and <i>Si</i>	126
9. PREPOSITIONS—SPECIAL USES	127
9.1 <i>Dans</i> and <i>En</i> + length of time	127
9.2 <i>Envers</i> and <i>Vers</i>	127
9.3 <i>Pendant</i> and <i>Pour</i>	128
10. CONJUNCTIONS	129

Special Topics	131
11. ORDER OF ELEMENTS IN FRENCH SENTENCES	131
12. IDIOMS	135
12.1 Special Uses	135
12.2 Basic Expressions	138
13. DATES, DAYS, MONTHS, SEASONS	156
13.1 Dates	156
13.2 Days	156
13.3 Months	157
13.4 Seasons	157
14. TELLING TIME	
14.1 Time Expressions You Ought to Know	158
14.2 "Official" Time Expressions	159
15. TALKING ABOUT THE WEATHER	161
16. NUMBERS	163
17. SYNONYMS	168
18. ANTONYMS	172
19. COGNATES	177
20. TRICKY WORDS	179
French-English Vocabulary	181
Index	191

Preface

This book is one of a new series of handy grammar reference guides. It is designed for students, business-people, and others who want to "brush up" their knowledge of French grammar for instant communication and comprehension.

Whether you are just beginning your study of French or have had some French and want to review, this book is for you. Previous knowledge has not been taken for granted in these pages; definitions and explanations are concise and clear, and examples use and reuse a core of basic vocabulary.

The complete grammar review consists of three parts: the Basics, the Parts of Speech, and Special Topics, all of which are outlined in the table of contents.

Occasionally I offer some mnemonic (memory) tips to help you remember certain aspects of French grammar and vocabulary. For example, if you cannot remember whether the French word for twenty (**vingt**) is spelled *ng* or *gn*, remember it this way:

Mnemonic tip

V	I	N	G	T	
T	W	E	N	T	Y

Mnemonic devices are very useful in learning and remembering. Students learn and remember in different ways. What works for you may not work for someone else. You must think of ways to help yourself remember. If you think of a way that seems foolish, don't tell anyone; just let it work for you. One of my students in a Spanish class, for example, told me that she finally figured out a way to remember the meaning of the Spanish verb *buscar* / to look

viii Preface

for. She said, "I'm looking for a bus or a car." How many mnemonic tips can you make up in French? Here are a few more: If someone asks you, "What are the five major Romance Languages?" are you going to say you don't know? Remember **FRIPS**:

Mnemonic tip	French Romanian Italian Portuguese Spanish
--------------	--

To remember that there are only four nasal vowels in French, hang on to this catchy phrase because each word contains one of the four nasal vowels:

Mnemonic tip	<i>un bon vin blanc</i> / a good white wine
--------------	---

If you keep pronouncing *un œuf* / an egg incorrectly, say this out loud:

Mnemonic tip	Do you want one egg? Two eggs? One egg is enough! One egg is <i>un œuf</i> !
--------------	--

The sound of the English word "enough" is very close to the sound of the French word *un œuf*.

There are many more mnemonic tips throughout this book. If I have omitted anything you think is important, if you spot any misprints, or if you have any suggestions for the improvement of the next edition, please write to me, care of the publisher.

Christopher Kendris
B.S., M.S., M.A., Ph.D.

How to Use This Book

In the chapters that follow, a numerical decimal system has been used with the symbol § in front of it. This was done so that you may find quickly and easily the reference to a particular point in basic French grammar when you use the index. For example, if you look up the entry "adjectives" in the index, you will find the reference given as §5. Sometimes additional § reference numbers are given when the entry you consult is mentioned in other areas in the chapter §. The index also includes some key French words, for example, avoir and être, with § references also given to them.

The Basics

§1.

Guide to Pronouncing French Sounds

English words given here contain sounds that only approximate French sounds.

PURE VOWEL SOUNDS

French word	Pronounced as in the English word
<i>la</i>	lolly
<i>pas</i>	ah!
<i>été</i>	ate
<i>ère</i>	egg
<i>ici</i>	see
<i>hôtel</i>	over
<i>donne</i>	bun
<i>ou</i>	too
<i>leur</i>	urgent
<i>deux</i>	pudding
<i>tu</i>	cute
<i>le</i>	ago

NASAL VOWEL SOUNDS

<i>un</i>	unguent
<i>bon</i>	song
<i>vin</i>	sang
<i>blanc</i>	throng

SEMICONSONANT SOUNDS

<i>oui</i>	west
<i>huit</i>	you eat
<i>fille</i>	yes, see ya later

2 The Basics

CONSONANT SOUNDS

Pronounced as in the

French word

English word

<i>bonne</i>	bun
<i>dans</i>	dog
<i>fou</i>	first, pharmacy
<i>garçon</i>	go
<i>je</i>	measure
<i>chose</i>	shake
<i>café, qui</i>	cap, kennel
<i>le</i>	let
<i>mette</i>	met
<i>nette</i>	net
<i>montagne</i>	canyon, onion, union
<i>père</i>	pear
<i>rose</i>	rose
<i>si</i>	see
<i>te</i>	lot
<i>vous</i>	vine
<i>zèbre</i>	zebra
<i>ça</i>	sorry

- If you can, give equal stress to all syllables in a French word; do not raise your voice on any particular syllable.
- If you can't give equal stress to all syllables in a French word, then raise your voice slightly on the last syllable.

EXAMPLES:

chapeau (shah-PO), *magazine* (mah-gah-ZEEN),
perspicacité (per-spee-kah-see-TAY)

- Do not pronounce the last letter of a French word if it is a consonant.

EXAMPLES:

beaucoup (bo-KOO), *aéroport* (ah-air-o-POR)

Some common exceptions: *parc* (pARK), *chef* (shEFF), *avec* (ah-VEK). If you're not sure, don't pronounce the last consonant at all.

Mnemonic tip

If you don't know which is *accent aigu* (acute) (é) and which is *accent grave* (è), remember that the patient died of acute appendicitis (é) and ended up in the grave (è).

§2.

Capitalization, Punctuation Marks, and Word Division

§2.1 CAPITALIZATION

Generally speaking, do not capitalize days of the week, months of the year, languages, adjectives of nationality, and religions.

dimanche, lundi, mardi, etc.; janvier, février, mars, etc.; français, espagnol, anglais, etc.; Antonio est italien, María est espagnole; Pierre est français; Jacques est catholique.

Nouns of nationality are capitalized.

un Américain / an American (male); une Française / a French woman.

§2.2 PUNCTUATION MARKS

The basic punctuation marks in French are:

le point / period .

point virgule / semicolon ;

la virgule / comma ,

l'apostrophe (f) / apostrophe '

deux points / colon :

les parenthèses (f) / parentheses ()

les guillemets (m) / quotation marks « »

le point d'interrogation / question mark ?

les points de suspension / ellipses points . . .

§2.3 WORD DIVISION

It is good to know how to divide a word into syllables (not only in French but also in English) because it helps you pronounce and spell the word correctly.

Basic Rules

- A syllable must contain a vowel, but it may contain only one vowel and no consonant.

é / cole (*école* / school)

- When you are dealing with single separate consonants, each consonant remains with the vowel that follows it.

beau / coup (*beaucoup* / many, much)

- When two consonants come together, they are separated; the first remains with the preceding syllable and the second remains with the following syllable.

im / por / tant (*important*)

But if the second of the two consonants that come together is */* or *r*, do not separate them:

a / près (*après* / after); *im / meu / ble* (*immeuble* / apartment building)

- When three consonants come together, the first two remain with the preceding vowel and the third remains with the vowel that follows it.

ins / ti / tut (*institut*)

But if the third of the three consonants is */* or *r*, do not separate that third consonant from the second; it remains with the second consonant.

com / pren / dre (*comprendre* / to understand)

6 The Basics

Vowels

- Two vowels together are generally separated if they are strong vowels (*a, e, o*).

a /é /ro /port (*aéroport* / airport)

But if you are dealing with a weak vowel (*i, u*), it ordinarily remains in the same syllable with its neighboring vowel, especially if that other vowel is a strong vowel.

huî /tre (*huître* / oyster)

The Parts of Speech

§3.

Articles

§3.1 DEFINITE ARTICLE

The definite article in French has four forms, and they all mean “the”:

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine	<i>le, l'</i>	<i>les</i>
Feminine	<i>la, l'</i>	<i>les</i>

Singular	Plural
<i>le garçon / the boy l'arbre (m) / the tree la jeune fille / the girl l'actrice / the actress</i>	<i>les garçons / the boys les arbres / the trees les jeunes filles / the girls les actrices / the actresses</i>

8 The Parts of Speech

Definite Article Used

WITH NOUNS

- Before each noun even when more than one noun is stated.

J'ai le livre et le cahier. / I have the book and notebook.

- When you make a general statement.

J'aime le lait. / I like milk.

J'aime l'été. / I like summer.

- With a noun of weight or measure to express "a," "an," "per."

dix francs la livre / ten francs a pound

vingt francs la douzaine / twenty francs a dozen

- Before a noun indicating a profession, rank, or title followed by the name of the person.

Le professeur Poulin est absent aujourd'hui. / Professor Poulin is absent today.

- With the name of a language.

J'étudie le français. / I'm studying French.

EXCEPTION: Do not use the definite article when the name of a language directly follows a form of the verb *parler*.

Je parle français et russe. / I speak French and Russian.

- With the days of the week to indicate an action that is habitually repeated.

Le samedi je vais au cinéma. / On Saturdays I go to the movies.

But when you want to indicate a *particular* day, do not use the definite article.

Samedi je vais au cinéma. / Saturday I am going to the movies.
(understood: this Saturday)

With parts of the body or articles of clothing if the possessor is clearly stated.

Luigi, qui est italien, a les cheveux noirs. / Luigi, who is Italian, has black hair.

With family names in the plural, in which case the spelling of the family name does not change.

Nous allons chez les Durand. / We're going to the Durands.

WITH PREPOSITIONS

When the prepositions *à* and *de* come before the definite article, it contracts as follows:

Preposition		Article		Contraction
<i>à</i>	{	+ le	>	<i>au</i>
		+ les	>	<i>aux</i>
<i>de</i>	{	+ le	>	<i>du</i>
		+ les	>	<i>des</i>

But there is *no* change with *l'* or *la*.

Je vais à l'aéroport. / I'm going to the airport.

Je vais à la bibliothèque. / I'm going to the library.

Je viens de l'aéroport. / I'm coming from the airport.

Je viens de la bibliothèque. / I'm coming from the library.

With the preposition *à* (which combines to form *au* or *aux*) in front of the name of a country that is masculine.

Nous allons au Canada / We're going to Canada.

Janine vient aux États-Unis. / Janine is coming to the United States.

10 The Parts of Speech

With the preposition *de* (which combines to form *du* or *des*) before the name of a country that is masculine.

du Portugal / from Portugal

des Etats-Unis / from the United States

With the preposition *de* + a common noun to indicate possession.

le livre du garçon / the boy's book

les livres des garçons / the boys' books

la robe de la jeune fille / the girl's dress

les poupées des petites filles / the little girls' dolls

WITH CERTAIN EXPRESSIONS

- Indicating segments of the day.

l'après-midi / in the afternoon; *le matin* / in the morning;

le soir / in the evening

- Common expressions.

à l'école / to school, in school; *à la maison* / at home

la semaine dernière / last week; *l'année dernière* / last year

la plupart de / most of

la plupart des jeunes filles / most of the girls

- As a partitive in the affirmative.

J'ai du café. / I have (some) coffee.

Tu as de l'argent. / You have (some) money.

Il a des amis. / He has friends.

Definite Article Not Used

However, the definite article is *not* used when the partitive is in the negative or when the definite article is used with an adjective.

Je n'ai pas de café. / I haven't any coffee.

Tu n'as pas d'argent. / You haven't any money.

Il a de bons amis. / He has some good friends.

Do not use the definite article:

In direct address: *Bonjour, docteur Leduc.*

After the preposition *en*: *Nous écrivons en français.* Exceptions:

en l'air / in the air; *en l'absence de* / in the absence of
en l'honneur de / in honor of

After the preposition *de* in an adjective phrase: *J'aime mon livre de français.*

With a feminine country and continents when you use *en* / at, to or *de* / of, from.

Je vais en France, en Angleterre, en Allemagne, en Australie, en Asie, et en Amérique.

Paul vient de France, les Armstrong viennent d'Australie et Hilda vient d'Allemagne.

With most cities: *à Paris, à New York; de Londres, de Montréal, de Sydney.*

With a noun in apposition: *Paul, fils du professeur Leblanc, est très aimable.*

With titles of monarchs:

Louis Seize (Louis XVI) / Louis the Sixteenth

With the preposition *sans* or with the construction *ne . . . ni . . . ni . . .*:

Je n'ai ni papier ni stylo. / I have neither paper nor pen.

Il est parti sans argent. / He left without money.

With certain expressions of quantity that take *de*: *beaucoup de, trop de, combien de, peu de, plus de, assez de*

With the preposition *avec* when the noun after it is abstract:

Jean-Luc parle avec enthousiasme.

12 The Parts of Speech

§3.2 INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The forms of the indefinite article are:

Singular

J'ai un frère. / I have a brother.
J'ai une sœur. / I have a sister.

Plural

J'ai des frères. / I have brothers.
J'ai des sœurs. / I have sisters.

The indefinite article is used:

- When you want to say "a" or "an." It is also used as a numeral to mean "one":

un livre / a book or one book
une orange / an orange or one orange

- In front of each noun in a series:

J'ai un cahier, un crayon et une gomme. / I have a notebook, pencil, and eraser.

- With *C'est* or *Ce sont* with or without an adjective:

C'est un docteur. / He's a doctor.
C'est un mauvais docteur. / He's a bad doctor.
Ce sont des étudiants. / They are students.

The indefinite article is *not* used:

- With *cent* and *mille*:

J'ai cent dollars. / I have a hundred dollars.
J'ai mille dollars. / I have a thousand dollars.

- With *il est*, *ils sont*, *elle est*, *elles sont* + an unmodified noun of nationality, profession, or religion:

Elle est professeur. / She is a professor.
Il est catholique. / He is (a) Catholic.

When you use *quel* in an exclamation:

Quelle femme! / What a woman!

Quel homme! / What a man!

With negations, particularly with the verb *avoir*:

Avez-vous un livre? Non, je n'ai pas de livre. / Have you a book? No, I don't have a book (any book).

§3.3 PARTITIVE

The partitive denotes a *part* of a whole; in other words, some. In English, we express the partitive by saying "some" or "any" in front of the noun. Use the following forms in front of the noun:

Masculine singular: *du* or *de l'*

Feminine singular: *de la* or *de l'*

Masculine or feminine plural: *des*

Simple Affirmative

J'ai du café. / I have some coffee.

J'ai de la viande. / I have some meat.

J'ai de l'eau. / I have some water.

J'ai des bonbons. / I have some candy.

Simple Negative

Je n'ai pas de café. / I don't have any coffee.

Je n'ai pas de viande. / I don't have any meat.

Je n'ai pas d'eau. / I don't have any water.

Je n'ai pas de bonbons. / I don't have any candy.

14 The Parts of Speech

With an Adjective

J'ai de jolis chapeaux. / I have some pretty hats.
J'ai de jolies robes. / I have some pretty dresses.

Note the following:

- When the noun is preceded by an adverb or noun of quantity or measure, use *de*, as in *J'ai beaucoup de choses.* / I have many things.
- When the noun is modified by another noun, use *de*, as in *une école de filles.*
- The partitive is not used with *sans* or *ne . . . ni . . . ni.*

EXAMPLE:

J'ai quitté la maison sans argent. / I left the house without any money.

- Use *quelques* and not the partitive when by "some" you mean "a few," in other words, "not many."

EXAMPLES:

J'ai quelques amis. / I have a few (some) friends.

J'ai quelques bonbons. / I have a few (some) candies.

- When the negated verb is *ne . . . que* / only, the partitive consists of *de* plus the definite article.

EXAMPLES:

Elle ne lit que des livres. / She reads only books.

Elle ne mange que des bonbons. / She eats only candy.

- The partitive must be repeated before each noun.

EXAMPLE:

Ici on vend du papier, de l'encre et des cahiers. / Here they sell paper, ink, and notebooks.

§4.

Nouns

§4.1 GENDER

A *noun* is a word that refers to a person, place, thing, or quality. Nouns are either masculine or feminine and require the article *le*, *la*, *'l*, or */es*. The gender of nouns that refer to persons or animals is obvious.

Examples

PERSONS

Masculine

l'homme / the man
le garçon / the boy
l'oncle / the uncle

Feminine

la femme / the woman
la jeune fille / the girl
la tante / the aunt

ANIMALS

Masculine

le taureau / the bull
le coq / the rooster
le chat / the cat

Feminine

la vache / the cow
la poule / the hen
la chatte / the cat

- The gender of nouns referring to anything other than persons or animals must be learned with the noun.

16 The Parts of Speech

Examples

Gender	Noun Endings	Examples
Masculine	-age or -âge	<i>l'âge / age</i> <i>le fromage / cheese</i>
	-ment	<i>le logement / lodging</i> <i>le médicament / medicine (you take)</i>
	-eau	<i>le chapeau / hat</i> <i>le gâteau / cake</i>
Feminine	-ance	<i>la circonstance / circumstance</i>
	-ence	<i>la chance / chance, luck</i> <i>l'apparence / appearance</i>
	-tion	<i>la science / science</i> <i>l'attention / attention</i>
	-ette	<i>la notion / idea, notion</i> <i>la fourchette / fork</i> <i>la serviette / napkin</i>
		<i>la sucette / lollipop</i>

Special Cases

Some nouns have one meaning when masculine, another meaning when feminine:

Masculine

le livre / book

le tour / turn

Feminine

la livre / pound

la tour / tower

Some nouns are the same for both:

Masculine

un élève / pupil (boy)

un enfant / child (boy)

Feminine

une élève / pupil (girl)

une enfant / child (girl)

Some nouns add -e to the masculine to form the feminine:

Masculine

un cousin / cousin

un ami / friend

Feminine

une cousine / cousin

une amie / friend

Some nouns change the *-eur* masculine ending to *-euse* for feminine:

Masculine

un vendeur / salesman
un menteur / liar

Feminine

une vendueuse / saleswoman
une menteuse / liar

§4.2 PLURAL OF NOUNS—THE BASICS

Add *-s* to the singular:

Singular	Plural
<i>le livre</i> / the book	<i>les livres</i> / the books
<i>la maison</i> / the house	<i>les maisons</i> / the houses
<i>l'étudiant</i> / the student	<i>les étudiants</i> / the students

If a noun ends in *-s*, *-x*, or *-z* in the singular, leave it alone:

Singular	Plural
<i>le bras</i> / the arm	<i>les bras</i> / the arms
<i>la voix</i> / the voice	<i>les voix</i> / the voices
<i>le nez</i> / the nose	<i>les nez</i> / the noses

If a noun ends in *-al* in the singular, change *-al* to *-aux*:

Singular
<i>le journal</i> / the newspaper
Plural
<i>les journaux</i> / the newspapers

18 The Parts of Speech

If a noun ends in *-eu* or *-eau* in the singular, add *-x*:

Singular

le feu / the fire

le bureau / the office, the desk

Plural

les feux / the fires

les bureaux / the offices, desks

Common irregular nouns

Singular

le ciel / the sky

l'œil / the eye

Plural

les cieux / the skies

les yeux / the eyes

§5.

Adjectives

§5.1 FORMATION

Feminine Singular

- The feminine singular of an adjective is normally formed by adding -e to the masculine singular.

EXAMPLES

joli — jolie / pretty *présent — présente* / present
grand — grande / tall

- If a masculine singular adjective already ends in -e, the feminine singular is the same form.

EXAMPLES

aimable / kind *énorme* / huge *faible* / weak

- Some feminine singular forms are irregular. If a masculine singular adjective ends in -c, change it to -que for the feminine; -er to -ère; -f to -ve; -g to -gue; and -x to -se.

EXAMPLES

public — publique / public *long — longue* / long
premier — première / first *heureux — heureuse* / happy
actif — active / active

- Some masculine singular adjectives double the final consonant before adding -e to form the feminine.

EXAMPLES

ancien — ancienne / old *cruel — cruelle* / cruel
bas — basse / low *gentil — gentille* / kind, nice
bon — bonne / good

20 The Parts of Speech

- The following feminine singular adjectives are formed from the irregular masculine singular forms:

Masculine Singular Before a Masculine Singular Noun Beginning with a Consonant	Irregular Masculine Singular Before a Masculine Singular Noun Beginning with a Vowel or Silent H
beau / beautiful, handsome	<i>bel ami</i>
fou / crazy	<i>fol ami</i>
nouveau / new	<i>nouvel hôtel</i>
vieux / old	<i>vieil ami</i>

Feminine Singular

belle amie
folle amie
nouvelle amie
vieille amie

Mnemonic tip

La vieille dame a passé la veille de Noël avec son vieil ami dans un vieux cabaret. / The old lady spent Christmas Eve with her old friend in an old cabaret.

- Some common masculine singular adjectives have irregular forms in the feminine singular. These do not fall into any particular category like those above.

EXAMPLES

<i>blanc</i> — <i>blanche</i> / white	<i>favori</i> — <i>favorite</i> / favorite
<i>complet</i> — <i>complète</i> / complete	<i>frais</i> — <i>fraîche</i> / fresh
<i>doux</i> — <i>douce</i> / soft, smooth, sweet	<i>sec</i> — <i>sèche</i> / dry
<i>faux</i> — <i>fausse</i> / false	

Plural

- The plural is normally formed by adding -s to the masculine or feminine singular.

EXAMPLES

*bon – bons; bonne – bonnes / good joli – jolis;
jolie – jolies / pretty*

- If the masculine singular already ends in -s or -x, it remains the same in the masculine plural.

EXAMPLES

gris — gris / gray heureux — heureux / happy

- If a masculine singular adjective ends in -al, it changes to -aux (with some exceptions).

EXAMPLES

égal — égaux / equal principal — principaux / principal

- If a masculine singular adjective ends in -eau, it changes to -eaux.

EXAMPLE

nouveau — nouveaux / new

§5.2 AGREEMENT

An adjective agrees in gender (feminine or masculine) and number (singular or plural) with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

EXAMPLES:

Alexandre et Théodore sont beaux et intelligents. / Alexander and Theodore are handsome and smart.

Yolande est belle. / Yolande is beautiful.

Janine et Monique sont belles. / Janine and Monique are beautiful.

Hélène et Simone sont actives. / Helene and Simone are active.

22 The Parts of Speech

Anne est jolie. / Anne is pretty.

C'est un bel arbre. / It is a beautiful tree.

Ils sont amusants. / They are amusing.

Chaque garçon est présent. / Every boy is here (present).

Chaque jeune fille est présente. / Every girl is here (present).

Valentine est absente. / Valentine is absent.

§5.3 POSITION

- In French, most descriptive adjectives are placed after the noun; e.g., colors, nationality, religion: *une robe blanche* / a white dress, *un fromage français* / a French cheese, *une femme catholique* / a Catholic woman
- Here are some examples of common short adjectives that are generally placed in front of the noun:

un autre livre / another book, *un bel arbre* / a beautiful tree, *un beau cadeau* / a beautiful gift, *un bon dîner* / a good dinner, *chaque jour* / each day, *un gros livre* / a big book, *une jeune dame* / a young lady, *une jolie maison* / a pretty house, *une petite table* / a small table, *plusieurs amis* / several friends, *un vieil homme* / an old man, *le premier rang* / the first row, *quelques bonbons* / some candy, *un tel garçon* / such a boy, *toute la journée* / all day.

- Some adjectives change in meaning, depending on whether the adjective is in front of the noun or after it. The most common are:

la semaine dernière / last week

ma robe propre / my clean dress

une femme brave / a brave woman

le même moment / the same moment

un livre cher / an expensive book

la dernière semaine / the last (final) week

ma propre robe / my own dress

une brave femme / a fine woman

le moment même / the very moment

un cher ami / a dear friend

§5.4 TYPES

§5.4–1 Descriptive

A descriptive adjective is a word that describes a noun or pronoun: *une belle maison* / a beautiful house, *un beau livre* / a beautiful book, *un bel arbre* / a beautiful tree, *une jolie femme* / a pretty woman.

Elle est grande. / She is tall.

§5.4–2 Demonstrative

A demonstrative adjective is used to point out something or someone.

Gender	Singular	Plural
Masculine	<i>ce, cet</i> / this, that	<i>ces</i> / these, those
Feminine	<i>cette</i> / this, that	<i>ces</i> / these, those

EXAMPLES:

Ce garçon est beau. / This boy is handsome.

Cet arbre est beau. / This tree is beautiful.

Cette femme est belle. / This woman is beautiful.

Ces hommes sont beaux. / These men are handsome.

Ces livres sont beaux. / These books are beautiful.

Ces dames sont belles. / These ladies are beautiful.

If you wish to make a contrast between "this" and "that" or "these" and "those," add *-ci* this, these or *-là* that, those to the noun with a hyphen.

Ce garçon-ci est plus fort que ce garçon-là. / This boy is stronger than that boy.

The form *cet* is used in front of a masculine singular noun or adjective beginning with a vowel or silent *h*: *cet arbre, cet homme*.

24 The Parts of Speech

If there is more than one noun, a demonstrative adjective must be used in front of each noun: *cette dame et ce monsieur*.

§5.4–3 Interrogative

The adjective *quel* is generally regarded as interrogative because it is frequently used in a question. Its forms are *quel*, *quelle*, *quels*, *quelles*.

EXAMPLES:

Quel livre voulez-vous? / Which book do you want?

Quel est votre nom? / What is your name?

Quelle heure est-il? / What time is it?

Quelle est votre adresse? / What is your address?

Quels sont les mois de l'année? / What are the months of the year?

Quelles sont les saisons? / What are the seasons?

The adjective *quel* is also used in exclamations. Note that the indefinite article *un* (*une*) is not used in this case.

EXAMPLES

Quel garçon! / What a boy!

Quelle jeune fille! / What a girl!

§5.4–4 Possessive

MASCULINE

Singular

mon livre / my book

ton stylo / your pen

son ballon / his (her, its) balloon

notre parapluie / our umbrella

votre sandwich / your sandwich

leur gâteau / their cake

Plural

mes livres / my books

tes stylos / your pens

ses ballons / his (her, its) balloons

nos parapluies / our umbrellas

vos sandwiches / your sandwiches

leurs gâteaux / their cakes

FEMININE**Singular**

ma robe / my dress
ta jaquette / your jacket
sa balle / his (her, its) ball
notre maison / our house
votre voiture / your car
leur sœur / their sister

Plural

mes robes / my dresses
tes jaquettes / your jackets
ses balles / his (her, its) balls
nos maisons / our houses
vos voitures / your cars
leurs sœurs / their sisters

A possessive adjective agrees in gender and number with the noun it modifies.

Notre, votre, and leur do not agree with the gender of the noun in the singular. They are all the same, whether in front of a masculine or feminine singular noun.

Possessive adjectives do not agree with the gender of the noun in the plural. They are all the same, whether in front of a masculine or feminine plural noun: *mes, tes, ses, nos, vos, leurs*.

Be aware of *mon (ma), ton (ta), son (sa)*: In front of a feminine singular noun beginning with a vowel or silent *h*, the masculine singular forms are used: *mon, ton, son* — not *ma, ta, sa*.

<i>mon adresse</i> / my address
<i>ton opinion</i> / your opinion
<i>son amie</i> / his (or her) friend
<i>mon habitude</i> / my habit (custom)

Since *son, sa, and ses* can mean "his" or "her," you may add *à lui* or *à elle* to make the meaning clear.

<i>sa maison à lui / his house</i>
<i>sa maison à elle / her house</i>
<i>son livre à lui / his book</i>
<i>son livre à elle / her book</i>
<i>ses livres à lui / his books</i>
<i>ses livres à elle / her books</i>

- If there is more than one noun, a possessive adjective must be used in front of each noun: *ma mère et mon père, mon livre et mon cahier.*

Possessive Adjectives with Parts of the Body and Clothing

- When using the verb *avoir*, the definite article is normally used with parts of the body, **not** the possessive adjective.

Henri a les mains sales. / Henry has dirty hands.

Simone a les cheveux roux. / Simone has red hair.

- When using a reflexive verb, the definite article is normally used, **not** the possessive adjective.

Paulette s'est lavé les cheveux. / Paulette washed her hair.

- The *definite article* is used instead of the possessive adjective when referring to parts of the body or clothing if it is clear who the possessor is.

Henri tient le livre dans la main. / Henry is holding the book in his hand.

§5.4–5 Comparative and Superlative Comparative

Of the same degree: *aussi . . . que / as . . . as*

Of a lesser degree: *moins . . . que / less . . . than*

Of a higher degree: *plus . . . que / more . . . than*

Janine est aussi grande que Monique. / Janine is as tall as Monique.

Monique est moins intelligente que Janine. / Monique is less intelligent than Janine.

Janine est plus jolie que Monique. / Janine is prettier than Monique.

Aussi . . . que becomes *si . . . que* in a negative sentence.

Robert n'est pas si grand que Joseph. / Robert is not as tall as Joseph.

The comparative forms of the adjective "bad" are *mauvais*, *pire*, *le pire*.

Ce crayon est mauvais. / This pencil is bad.

Ce crayon est pire que l'autre. / This pencil is worse than the other.

Ce crayon est le pire. / This pencil is the worst.

Plus que / more than becomes *plus de + a number*.

EXAMPLES

Il a plus de cinquante ans. / He is more than fifty years old.

Je lui ai donné plus de cent dollars. / I gave him (her) more than a hundred dollars.

Superlative

The superlative is formed by placing the appropriate definite article (*le*, *la*, *les*) in front of the comparative:

Marie est la plus jolie jeune fille de la classe. / Mary is the prettiest girl in the class.

If the adjective normally follows the noun, the definite article must be used twice—in front of the noun and in front of the superlative:

Monsieur Hibou fut le président le plus sage de la nation. / Mr. Hibou was the wisest president of the nation.

28 The Parts of Speech

- After a superlative, the preposition *de* (not *dans*) is normally used to express “in”:

Pierre est le plus beau garçon de la classe. / Peter is the most handsome boy in the class.

- If more than one comparative or superlative is expressed, each is repeated:

Marie est la plus intelligente et la plus sérieuse de l'école. / Mary is the most intelligent and most serious in the school.

Une devinette (a riddle) using a superlative:

Quelle est la chose la plus sale de la maison? / What is the dirtiest thing in the house?

un balai / a broom

Irregular Comparative and Superlative Adjectives

Adjective (m)	Comparative	Superlative
<i>bon</i> / good <i>mauvais</i> / bad	<i>meilleur</i> / better <i>plus mauvais</i> <i>pire</i>	<i>le meilleur</i> / (the) best <i>le plus mauvais</i> <i>le pire</i>
<i>petit</i> / small	<i>plus petit</i> / smaller (in size) <i>moindre</i> / less (in importance)	<i>le plus petit</i> / (the) smallest <i>le moindre</i> / (the) least

§5.4–6 *Meilleur* and *Mieux*

Meilleur is an adjective and must agree in gender and number with the noun or pronoun it modifies.

EXAMPLE

Cette pomme est bonne, cette pomme-là est meilleure que celle-ci et celle-là est la meilleure. / This apple is good, that apple is better than this one, and that one is the best.

Mieux is an adverb and does not change in form.

EXAMPLE

Marie chante bien, Anne chante mieux que Marie et Claire chante le mieux. / Mary sings well, Anne sings better than Mary, and Claire sings the best.

Mnemonic tip The adverb *bien* / well and the adverb *mieux* / better both contain *ie*.

§5.4–7 Adjectives Used in an Adverbial Sense

An adjective used as an adverb does not normally change in form.

Cette rose sent bon. / This rose smells good.

Ces bonbons coûtent cher. / These candies are expensive.

§6.

Pronouns

§6.1 TYPES

§6.1-1 Subject Pronouns

The subject pronouns are:

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>je (j')</i> / I	<i>nous</i> / we
2d	<i>tu</i> / you (familiar)	<i>vous</i> / you (singular polite or plural)
3d	<i>il</i> / he, it <i>elle</i> / she, it <i>on</i> / one	<i>ils</i> / they (m.) <i>elles</i> / they (f.)

- Note that *je* becomes *j'* before a vowel or a silent *h*:
j'aime / I love; *j'hésite* / I hesitate.
- Remember that *vous* is not always plural; it is also the polite form of the second person; *tu* is the familiar form. You can use the *tu* form with members of the family and close friends, but always use the *vous* form with strangers and with people you do not know well.

§6.1–2 Direct Object Pronouns

The direct object pronouns are:

Person	Singular
1st	<i>me (m')</i> / me
2d	<i>te (t')</i> / you (familiar)
3d	$\begin{cases} \textit{le (l')} / \text{him, it} \\ \textit{la (l')} / \text{her, it} \end{cases}$ (person or thing)

Person	Plural
1st	<i>nous</i> / us
2d	<i>vous</i> / you (singular polite or plural)
3d	<i>les</i> / them (persons or things)

- A direct object pronoun takes the place of a direct object noun.
- A direct object noun ordinarily comes after the verb, but a direct object pronoun is ordinarily placed *in front* of the verb or infinitive.

EXAMPLES

J'ai les lettres. / I have the letters. → *Je les ai.* / I have them.
Je connais Luigi. / I know Luigi. → *Je le connais.* / I know him.

Mnemonic tip

Je lis la leçon. / I'm reading the lesson.

Drop the noun *leçon*; what remains is */a*, the feminine singular definite article. It now becomes the direct object pronoun. Place it in front of the verb: *Je la lis.* / I'm reading it.

- *Me, te, le, and la* become *m', t', l'* when directly followed by a verb that starts with a vowel or silent *h*.

32 The Parts of Speech

§6.1–3 Indirect Object Pronouns

The indirect object pronouns are:

Person	Singular
1st	<i>me (m')</i> to me
2d	<i>te (t')</i> to you (familiar)
3d	<i>lui</i> to him, to her

Person	Plural
1st	<i>nous</i> to us
2d	<i>vous</i> to you (singular polite or plural)
3d	<i>leur</i> to them

- An indirect object pronoun takes the place of an indirect object noun.
- An indirect object pronoun is ordinarily placed *in front* of the verb.

EXAMPLES

Je parle à Janine. / I'm talking to Janine. → *Je lui parle.* / I'm talking to her.

Je parle à Luigi et à mon ami. / I'm talking to Luigi and my friend. → *Je leur parle.* / I'm talking to them.

§6.1–4 Double Object Pronouns

To get a picture of what the word order is when you have more than one object pronoun (direct and indirect) in a sentence, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

§6.1–5 *En*

- The pronoun *en* takes the place of the partitive and serves as a direct object. It can refer to persons or things.

EXAMPLES

Avez-vous des frères? / Do you have any brothers?

Oui, j'en ai. / Yes, I have (some).

Avez-vous de l'argent? / Have you any money?

Oui, j'en ai. / Yes, I have (some). *Non, je n'en ai pas.* / No, I don't have any.

- The past participle of a compound verb does not agree with the preceding direct object *en*.

Avez-vous écrit des lettres? / Did you write any letters?

Oui, j'en ai écrit trois. / Yes, I wrote three (of them).

- When using a reflexive verb, use *en* to take the place of the preposition *de* + a thing.

Est-ce que vous vous souvenez de l'adresse? / Do you remember the address?

Oui, je m'en souviens. / Yes, I remember it.

Est-ce que vous prenez des hors-d'œuvre? / Are you helping yourself to the hors d'œuvre?

Oui, merci, j'en prends. / Yes, thank you, I'm helping myself to some.

Do not use *en* to take the place of the preposition *de* + a person. Use a disjunctive pronoun (see §6.1–7).

Est-ce que vous vous souvenez de cette dame? / Do you remember this lady?

Oui, je me souviens d'elle. / Yes, I remember her.

- Use *en* to take the place of *de* + noun and retain the word of quantity.

Avez-vous beaucoup d'amis? / Do you have many friends?

Oui, j'en ai beaucoup. / Yes, I have many (of them).

34 The Parts of Speech

Madame Paquet a-t-elle mis trop de sel dans le ragoût? / Did Mrs. Paquet put too much salt in the stew?

Oui, elle en a mis trop dans le ragoût. / Yes, she put too much (of it) in the stew.

- Use *en* to take the place of the preposition *de* + the place to mean “from there.”

Est-ce que vous venez de l'école? / Are you coming from school?

Oui, j'en viens. / Yes, I'm coming from there.

Non, je n'en viens pas. / No, I am not coming from there.

§6.1–6 Y

Use *y* as a pronoun to serve as an object replacing a prepositional phrase beginning with *à*, *dans*, *sur*, or *chez* that refers to things, places, or ideas.

Est-ce que vous pensez à l'examen? / Are you thinking of the exam?

Oui, j'y pense. / Yes, I'm (thinking of it).

Je réponds à la lettre. / I'm answering the letter.

J'y réponds. / I'm answering it.

Est-ce que les fleurs sont sur la table? / Are the flowers on the table?

Oui, elles y sont. / Yes, they are (there).

Est-ce que vous allez chez Pierre? / Are you going to Pierre's?

Oui, j'y vais. / Yes, I'm going (there).

§6.1–7 Disjunctive Pronouns

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>moi</i> me, I	<i>nous</i> us, we
2nd	<i>toi</i> you (familiar)	<i>vous</i> you (formal singular or plural)
3rd	<i>soi</i> oneself <i>lui</i> him, he <i>elle</i> her, she	<i>eux</i> them, they (m.) <i>elles</i> them, they (f.)

Mnemonic tip

Je vais chez moi. / I'm going to my house.
Tu vas chez toi. / You're going to your house.
Il va chez lui. / He's going to his house.
Elle va chez elle. / She's going to her house.
On va chez soi. / One is going to one's own house.

Nous allons chez nous. / We're going to our house.
Vous allez chez vous. / You're going to your house.
Ils vont chez eux. / They're going to their house.
Elles vont chez elles. / They're going to their house.

A disjunctive pronoun is used:

- as object of a preposition.

Elle parle avec moi. / She is talking with me.
Je pense toujours à toi. / I always think of you.

- in a compound subject or object.

Elle et lui sont amoureux. / He and she are in love.
Je vous connais —toi et lui. / I know you —you and him.

- for emphasis.

Moi, je parle bien; lui, il ne parle pas bien. / I speak well; he does not speak well.

- to indicate possession with à if the verb is être and if the subject is a noun, personal pronoun, or demonstrative pronoun.

Ce livre est à moi. / This book is mine.
Je suis à toi. / I am yours.

- with c'est and ce sont.

Qui est à la porte? —C'est moi. / Who is at the door? It is I.
C'est toi? Oui, c'est moi. / Is it you? Yes, it is I.

36 The Parts of Speech

Est-ce que ce sont eux? — Oui, ce sont eux. / Is it they? — Yes, it's they.

- with *même* and *mêmes*.

Est-ce Pierre? — Oui, c'est lui-même. / Is it Peter? Yes, it's he himself.

Vont-ils les manger eux-mêmes? / Are they going to eat them themselves?

- when no verb is stated.

Qui est à l'appareil? Moi. / Who is on the phone? I (am).

Qui a brisé le vase? Eux. / Who broke the vase? They (did).

See also Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

§6.1–8 Demonstrative Pronouns

The demonstrative pronouns are:

Singular		Plural
Masculine	<i>celui</i> / the one	<i>ceux</i> / the ones
Feminine	<i>celle</i> / the one	<i>celles</i> / the ones

EXAMPLES

J'ai mangé mon gâteau et celui de Peter. / I ate my cake and Peter's.

Il aime beaucoup ma voiture et celle de Jack. / He likes my car very much and Jack's.

J'ai mangé mes petits pois et ceux de David. / I ate my peas and David's.

J'aime tes jupes et celles de Jeanne. / I like your skirts and Jeanne's.

J'ai deux éclairs; est-ce que tu préfères celui-ci ou celui-là? / I have two eclairs; do you prefer this one or that one?

J'ai deux pommes; est-ce que tu préfères celle-ci ou celle-là? / I have two apples; do you prefer this one or that one?

Une devinette / a riddle

J'ai un chapeau, mais je n'ai pas de tête. Ne trouvez-vous pas que c'est bête? / I have a hat, but I don't have a head.

Don't you think it's stupid?

un champignon / a mushroom***ce (c'), ceci, cela, ça***

These are demonstrative pronouns but they are invariable; that is, they do not change in gender and number. They refer to things that are not identified by name and may refer to an idea or a statement mentioned.

EXAMPLES

C'est vrai. / It's true.

Ceci est vrai. / This is true. Ceci est faux. / This is false.

Cela est vrai. / That is true. Cela est faux. / That is false.

Ça m'intéresse beaucoup. / That interests me very much.

Qu'est-ce que c'est que cela? OR Qu'est-ce que c'est que ça? /

What's that?

Note that *cela* shortens to *ça*.

§6.1–9 Indefinite Pronouns

aucun (aucune) / not any, not one, none

un autre (une autre) / another, another one

nous autres Français / we French (people)

nous autres Américains / we American (people)

certains (certaines) / certain ones

chacun (chacune) / each one

nul (nulle) / not one, not any, none

n'importe qui, n'importe quel / anyone

n'importe quoi / anything

on / people, one, they, you, we

On dit qu'il va pleuvoir. / They say that it's going to rain.

38 The Parts of Speech

personne / no one, nobody

plusieurs / several

J'en ai plusieurs. / I have several (of them).

quelque chose / something

quelqu'un (quelqu'une) / someone, somebody

quelques-uns (quelques-unes) / some, a few

quiconque / whoever, whosoever

soi / oneself

On est chez soi dans cet hôtel. / People feel at home in this hotel.

tout / all, everything

Tout est bien qui finit bien. / All is well that ends well.

§6.1–10 Interrogative Pronouns

Referring to Persons

- As subject of a verb:

Qui est à l'appareil? / Who is on the phone?

Qui est-ce qui est à l'appareil? / Who is on the phone?

Lequel des deux garçons arrive? / Which (one) of the two boys is arriving?

Laquelle des deux jeunes filles est ici? / Which (one) of the two girls is here?

- As direct object of a verb:

Qui aimez-vous? / Whom do you love?

Qui est-ce que vous aimez? / Whom do you love?

Lequel de ces deux garçons aimez-vous? / Which (one) of these two boys do you love?

Laquelle de ces deux jeunes filles aimez-vous? / Which (one) of these two girls do you love?

- As object of a preposition:

Avec qui allez-vous au cinéma? / With whom are you going to the movies?

A qui parlez-vous au téléphone? / To whom are you talking on the telephone?

Note that when the interrogative pronouns *lequel* (*laquelle*), *lesquels* (*lesquelles*) are objects of the prepositions *à* or *de*, their forms are:

Singular

auquel (à laquelle)
duquel (de laquelle)

Plural

auxquels (auxquelles)
desquels (desquelles)

Auquel de ces deux garçons parlez-vous? / To which (one) of these two boys are you talking?

A laquelle de ces deux jeunes filles parlez-vous? / To which (one) of these two girls are you talking?

Auxquels de ces hommes parlez-vous? / To which (ones) of these men do you talk?

Auxquelles de ces femmes parlez-vous? / To which (ones) of these women are you talking?

Duquel de ces deux garçons parlez-vous? / About which (one) of these two boys are you talking?

Referring to Things

As subject of a verb:

Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé? / What arrived? OR What happened?

Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé? / What happened?

Une devinette avec qu'est-ce qui

Qu'est-ce qui vous appartient et dont les autres se servent souvent? / What belongs to you that others use often?

votre nom / your name

Laquelle de ces deux voitures marche bien? / Which (one) of these two cars runs well?

Lesquels de tous ces trains sont modernes? / Which (ones) of all these trains are modern?

40 The Parts of Speech

- As direct object of a verb:

Que faites-vous? / What are you doing?

Qu'a-t-elle? / What does she have? OR What's the matter with her?

Qu'est-ce que vous faites? / What are you doing?

Laquelle de ces voitures préférez-vous? / Which (one) of these cars do you prefer?

- As object of a preposition:

Avec quoi écrivez-vous? / With what are you writing?

A quoi pensez-vous? / Of what are you thinking? OR What are you thinking of?

§6.1–11 Possessive Pronouns

MASCULINE

Singular

<i>le mien</i>	mine
<i>le tien</i>	yours (familiar)
<i>le sien</i>	his, hers, its
<i>le nôtre</i>	ours
<i>le vôtre</i>	yours
<i>le leur</i>	theirs

Plural

<i>les miens</i>	mine
<i>les tiens</i>	yours (familiar)
<i>les siens</i>	his, hers, its
<i>les nôtres</i>	ours
<i>les vôtres</i>	yours
<i>les leurs</i>	theirs

FEMININE

Singular

<i>la mienne</i>	mine
<i>la tienne</i>	yours (familiar)
<i>la sienne</i>	his, hers, its
<i>la nôtre</i>	ours
<i>la vôtre</i>	yours
<i>la leur</i>	theirs

Plural

<i>les miennes</i>	mine
<i>les tiennes</i>	yours (familiar)
<i>les siennes</i>	his, hers, its
<i>les nôtres</i>	ours
<i>les vôtres</i>	yours
<i>les leurs</i>	theirs

- A possessive pronoun takes the place of a possessive adjective + noun.

mon livre / my book; le mien / mine.

A possessive pronoun agrees in gender and number with what it is replacing.

son livre / his (her) book; le sien / his (hers).

When the definite articles *le* and *les* are preceded by the prepositions *à* and *de*, they combine as follows: *au mien, aux miens, du mien, des miens.*

Paul me parle de ses parents et je lui parle des miens. / Paul is talking to me about his parents and I am talking to him about mine.

Je préfère ma voiture à la tienne. / I prefer my car to yours.

Possessive pronouns are used with *être* to emphasize a distinction.

Ce livre-ci est le mien et celui-là est le tien. / This book is mine and that one is yours.

If no distinction is made as to who owns what, use *être + à + disjunctive pronoun.*

Ce livre est à lui. / This book is his.

Instead of using the possessive pronouns in French, we say "one of my friends," "one of my books," etc.

un de mes amis / a friend of mine; un de mes livres / a book of mine

une de ses amies / a girlfriend of his (hers)

un de nos amis / a friend of ours

§6.1–12 Reflexive Pronouns

The reflexive pronouns, which are used with reflexive verbs, are *me, te, se, nous, and vous.*

The corresponding English pronouns are: myself, yourself, herself, himself, oneself, itself, ourselves, yourselves, themselves.

42 The Parts of Speech

- To form the present tense of a reflexive verb in a simple affirmative sentence, put the reflexive pronoun in front of the verb.

Je me lave. / I wash myself.

- A reflexive verb expresses an action that turns back upon the subject.

Jacqueline se lave tous les jours. / Jacqueline washes herself every day.

You must be careful to use the appropriate reflexive pronoun—the one that matches the subject pronoun. You already know the subject pronouns, but here they are again, beside the reflexive pronouns.

Person	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>je me lave</i>	<i>nous nous lavons</i>
2d	<i>tu te laves</i>	<i>vous vous lavez</i>
3d	<i>{ il se lave elle se lave on se lave</i>	<i>{ ils se lavent elles se lavent</i>

To get a picture of what the word order is when you have more than one pronoun of any kind in a sentence, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences (§11.).

§6.1–13 Relative Pronouns

A *relative pronoun* is a word that refers to an antecedent. An *antecedent* is something that comes before something; it can be a word, a phrase, a clause that is replaced by a pronoun or some other substitute. For example, in the sentence “Is it Mary who did that?” “who” is the relative

pronoun and "Mary" is the antecedent. Another example: "It seems to me that you are wrong, which is what I had suspected right along." The relative pronoun is "which" and the antecedent is the clause, "that you are wrong."

Some common relative pronouns are:

dont / of whom, of which, whose, whom, which

Voici le livre dont j'ai besoin. / Here is the book (that) I need.

Monsieur Béry, dont le fils est avocat, est maintenant en France. / Mr. Béry, whose son is a lawyer, is now in France.

ce dont / what, of which, that of which

Je ne trouve pas ce dont j'ai besoin. / I don't find what I need.

Ce dont vous parlez est absurde. / What you are talking about is absurd.

ce que (ce qu') / what, that which

Comprenez-vous ce que je vous dis? / Do you understand what I am telling you?

Comprenez-vous ce qu'elle vous dit? / Do you understand what she is saying to you?

Je comprends ce que vous dites et je comprends ce qu'elle dit. / I understand what you are saying and I understand what she is saying.

ce qui / what, that which

Ce qui est vrai est vrai. / What is true is true.

Je ne sais pas ce qui s'est passé. / I don't know what happened.

Note that *ce qui* is a subject.

lequel (in all its forms) / which

As a relative pronoun, *lequel* (in its various forms) is used as object of a preposition referring to things.

44 The Parts of Speech

Donnez-moi un autre morceau de papier sur lequel je peux écrire mon adresse. / Give me another piece of paper on which I can write my address.

- *où* / where, in which, on which

Aimez-vous la salle à manger où nous mangeons? / Do you like the dining room where we eat?

Je vais ouvrir le tiroir où j'ai mis l'argent. / I am going to open the drawer where I put the money.

- *que* or *qu'* / whom, which, that

Le garçon que vous voyez là-bas est mon meilleur ami. / The boy whom you see over there is my best friend.

La composition qu'elle a écrite est excellente. / The composition (that) she wrote is excellent.

- *qui* / who, whom, which, that

Connais-tu la jeune fille qui parle avec mon frère? / Do you know the girl who is talking with my brother?

Avez-vous une bicyclette qui marche bien? / Do you have a bicycle that (which) runs well?

§6.1–14 C'est + adjective + à + infinitive

C'est difficile à faire. / It is difficult to do.

Use this construction when what is being referred to *has already been mentioned*.

EXAMPLES

Le devoir pour demain est difficile, n'est-ce pas? / The homework for tomorrow is difficult, isn't it?

Oui, c'est difficile à faire. / Yes, it [the homework] is difficult to do.

J'aimerais faire une blouse. / I would like to make a blouse.

C'est facile à faire! Je vais vous montrer. / It's easy to do! I'll show you.

§6.1–15 *Il est + adjective + de + infinitive*

Il est impossible de lire ce gros livre en une heure. / It is impossible to read this thick book within one hour.

Use this construction when the thing that is impossible, or difficult, or easy (or any adjective) to do is mentioned in the same sentence at the same time.

§6.1–16 Neuter Pronoun *le*

The word *le* is the masculine singular definite article. It is also the masculine singular direct object. *Le* is used as a neuter pronoun and functions as a direct object referring to an adjective, a phrase, a clause, or a complete statement. It is generally not translated into English, except to mean "it" or "so."

Janine est jolie, mais Henriette ne l'est pas. / Janine is pretty, but Henrietta isn't.

Moi, je crois qu'ils vont gagner le match, et vous? Je le crois aussi. / I think they are going to win the game, and you? I think so too.

To get a picture of what the word order is when you have more than one pronoun of any kind in a sentence, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

§7.

Verbs

§7.1 AGREEMENT

SUBJECT AND VERB

A subject and its corresponding verb form must agree in person (first, second, or third) and number (singular or plural).

EXAMPLE:

Je vais au cinéma. / I'm going to the movies.

SUBJECT AND REFLEXIVE PRONOUN OF A REFLEXIVE VERB

A subject and reflexive pronoun must agree in person and number.

EXAMPLE

Je me lave tous les matins. / I wash myself every morning.

SUBJECT AND PAST PARTICIPLE OF AN *ÊTRE* VERB

The past participle of an *être* verb agrees with the subject in gender and number.

Elle est allée au cinéma. / She went to the movies. OR She has gone to the movies.

Elles sont allées au cinéma. / They went to the movies. OR They have gone to the movies.

PRECEDING REFLEXIVE PRONOUN AND PAST PARTICIPLE OF A REFLEXIVE VERB

Elle s'est lavée. / She washed herself.

Elles se sont lavées. / They washed themselves.

However, there is *no* agreement made with the past participle of a reflexive verb if the reflexive pronoun serves as an indirect object pronoun. In the following example, *se* (*s'*) is the indirect object; *les mains* the direct object.

Elle s'est lavé les mains. / She washed her hands.

Elles se sont lavé les mains. / They washed their hands.

Note this:

Elles se sont regardées. / They looked at each other.

Here, the reflexive pronoun *se* serves as the direct object. How do you know? There is no other obvious direct object mentioned, so what they looked at was *se* (each other); of course, you have to look at the subject to see what the gender and number is of the reflexive pronoun *se* in the sentence you are dealing with. The action of the verb is reciprocal.

Remember that the verb *regarder* in French means "to look at" in English; the preposition "at" is not expressed with *à* in French; it is included in the verb—that is why we are dealing with the reflexive pronoun as a direct object here, not an indirect object pronoun.

This same sentence, *Elles se sont regardées*, might also mean: "They looked at themselves." The principle of agreement is still the same. If you mean to say "They looked at each other," in order to avoid two meanings, add *l'une et l'autre*. If more than two persons, add */les unes les autres*.

And note:

Elles se sont parlé au téléphone. / They talked to each other on the telephone.

48 The Parts of Speech

Here, the reflexive pronoun *se* is the indirect object because they spoke to each other; *parler à* is what you are dealing with here. And remember that no agreement is made on a past participle with an indirect object. The action of the verb is reciprocal.

PAST PARTICIPLE OF AN AVOIR VERB WITH A PRECEDING DIRECT OBJECT

EXAMPLES

Je l'ai vue au concert. / I saw her at the concert.

- There is agreement on the past participle (*vue*) because the preceding direct object is *la* (*l'*). Agreement is made in gender and number.

Aimez-vous les fleurs que je vous ai données? / Do you like the flowers (that) I gave you?

- There is agreement on the past participle (*données*) of this *avoir* verb because there is a preceding direct object, *les fleurs*; the relative pronoun *que* refers to *les fleurs*. Since this direct object noun precedes the verb, the past participle must agree in gender and number. A preceding direct object, therefore, can be a pronoun or noun.

Quels films avez-vous vus? / What films did you see?

- There is agreement on the past participle (*vus*) of this *avoir* verb because the preceding direct object, *films*, is a masculine plural noun.

Avez-vous mangé les pâtisseries? / Did you eat the pastries?
Oui, je les ai mangées. / Yes, I ate them.

- In the response to this question, there is agreement on the past participle (*mangées*) of this *avoir* verb because the preceding direct object, */es*, refers to *les pâtisseries*, a feminine plural noun.

J'en ai mangé assez. / I ate enough (of them).

- There is no agreement on the past participle (*mangé*) of this *avoir* verb because the preceding direct object is, in this sentence, the pronoun *en*. We do not normally make an agreement with *en*, whether it precedes or follows. This is an exception.

§7.2 PAST PARTICIPLE

REGULAR FORMATION

Infinitive	Type Ending	Drop	Add	Past Participle
<i>donner</i>	-er	-er	é	<i>donné</i>
<i>finir</i>	-ir	-ir	i	<i>fini</i>
<i>vendre</i>	-re	-re	u	<i>vendu</i>

COMMON IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES

Infinitive	Past Participle
<i>apprendre</i>	<i>appris</i>
<i>asseoir</i>	<i>assis</i>
<i>avoir</i>	<i>eu</i>
<i>boire</i>	<i>bu</i>
<i>comprendre</i>	<i>compris</i>
<i>conduire</i>	<i>conduit</i>
<i>connaître</i>	<i>connu</i>
<i>construire</i>	<i>construit</i>
<i>courir</i>	<i>couru</i>

COMMON IRREGULAR PAST PARTICIPLES (cont.)

Infinitive	Past Participle
<i>couvrir</i>	<i>couvert</i>
<i>croire</i>	<i>croit</i>
<i>croire</i>	<i>cru</i>
<i>devenir</i>	<i>devenu</i>
<i>devoir</i>	<i>dû</i>
<i>dire</i>	<i>dit</i>
<i>écrire</i>	<i>écrit</i>
<i>être</i>	<i>été</i>
<i>faire</i>	<i>fait</i>
<i>falloir</i>	<i>fallu</i>
<i>lire</i>	<i>lu</i>
<i>mettre</i>	<i>mis</i>
<i>mourir</i>	<i>mort</i>
<i>naître</i>	<i>né</i>
<i>offrir</i>	<i>offert</i>
<i>ouvrir</i>	<i>ouvert</i>
<i>paraître</i>	<i>paru</i>
<i>permettre</i>	<i>permis</i>
<i>plaire</i>	<i>plu</i>
<i>pleuvoir</i>	<i>plu</i>
<i>pouvoir</i>	<i>pu</i>
<i>prendre</i>	<i>pris</i>
<i>promettre</i>	<i>promis</i>
<i>recevoir</i>	<i>reçu</i>
<i>revenir</i>	<i>revenu</i>
<i>rire</i>	<i>ri</i>
<i>savoir</i>	<i>su</i>
<i>suivre</i>	<i>suivi</i>
<i>taire</i>	<i>tu</i>
<i>tenir</i>	<i>tenu</i>
<i>valoir</i>	<i>valu</i>
<i>venir</i>	<i>venu</i>
<i>vivre</i>	<i>vécu</i>
<i>voir</i>	<i>vu</i>
<i>vouloir</i>	<i>voulu</i>

§7.3 TYPES**§7.3–1 Auxiliary Verbs *avoir* and *être***

The auxiliary (helping) verbs *avoir* and *être* are used in any of the seven simple tenses + the past participle of the main verb you are using to form any of the compound tenses. You must be careful to choose the proper helping verb with the main verb. Some verbs take *avoir* and some take *être* to form the compound tenses.

- Most French verbs are conjugated with *avoir* to form a compound tense.
- All reflexive verbs, such as *se laver*, are conjugated with *être*.

The following is a list of common nonreflexive verbs that are conjugated with *être*.

1. *aller* to go *Elle est allée au cinéma.*
2. *arriver* to arrive *Elle est arrivée.*
3. **descendre* to go down, come down *Elle est descendue vite.* / She came down quickly. BUT: **Elle a descendu la valise.* / She brought down the suitcase.
4. *devenir* to become *Elle est devenue folle.*
5. *entrer* to enter, go in, come in *Elle est entrée.*
6. **monter* to go up, come up *Elle est montée lentement.* / She went up slowly. BUT: **Elle a monté l'escalier.* / She went up the stairs.
7. *mourir* to die *Elle est morte.*
8. *naître* to be born *Elle est née le premier octobre.*
9. *partir* to leave *Elle est partie.*
10. **passer* to go by, pass by *Elle est passée par chez moi.* / She came by my house. BUT: **Elle m'a passé le sel.* / She passed me the salt. AND: **Elle a passé un examen.* / She took an exam.
11. **rentrer* to go in again; to return (home) *Elle est rentrée tôt.* / She returned home early. BUT: **Elle a rentré le chat dans la maison.* / She brought (took) the cat into the house.
12. *rester* to remain, stay *Elle est restée chez elle.*

52 The Parts of Speech

13. *retourner* to return, go back *Elle est retournée.*
14. *revenir* to come back *Elle est revenue.*
15. **sortir* to go out *Elle est sortie hier soir.* / She went out last night. BUT: **Elle a sorti son mouchoir.* / She took out her handkerchief.
16. *tomber* to fall *Elle est tombée.*
17. *venir* to come *Elle est venue.*

* Some of these verbs, as noted above, are conjugated with *avoir* if the verb is used in a transitive sense and has a direct object.

§7.3–2 Transitive Verbs

A transitive verb is a verb that takes a direct object. It is transitive because the action passes over and directly affects something or someone in some way.

Je vois mon ami. / I see my friend. → *Je le vois.* / I see him.
Je ferme la fenêtre. / I am closing the window. → *Je la ferme.* / I'm closing it.

When the direct object of the verb is a pronoun, it is usually placed in front of the verb. The only time it is placed after the verb is in the affirmative imperative. To get an idea of the position of direct object pronouns, see Word Order of Elements in French Sentences, §11.

§7.3–3 Intransitive Verbs

An intransitive verb is a verb that does not take a direct object. Such a verb is called intransitive because the action does not pass over and directly affect anyone or anything.

La maîtresse parle. / The teacher is talking.

Elle est partie tôt. / She left early.

Elles sont descendues vite. / They came down quickly.

Nous sommes montées lentement. / We went up slowly.

An intransitive verb takes an indirect object.

La maîtresse parle aux élèves. / The teacher is talking to the students.

Here the indirect object noun is *élèves* because it is preceded by *aux* / to the.

La maîtresse leur parle. / The teacher is talking to them.

Here the indirect object is the pronoun *leur*, meaning "to them."

§7.4 PRESENT PARTICIPLE

Regular Formation

The present participle is regularly formed in the following way: Take the *nous* form of the present indicative tense of the verb you have in mind, drop the first person plural ending *-ons*, and add *-ant*. That ending is equivalent to *-ing* in English.

Infinitive	Present Tense 1st Person Pl.	Drop -ons	add -ant	Present Participle
<i>finir</i> / to finish	<i>nous finissons</i>	<i>finiss</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>finissant</i>
<i>manger</i> / to eat	<i>nous mangeons</i>	<i>mange</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>mangeant</i>
<i>vendre</i> / to sell	<i>nous vendons</i>	<i>vend</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>vendant</i>
<i>faire</i> / to do; make	<i>nous faisons</i>	<i>fais</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>faisant</i>
<i>dire</i> / to say; tell	<i>nous disons</i>	<i>dis</i>	<i>ant</i>	<i>disant</i>

Common Irregular Present Participles

Infinitive	Present Participle
<i>avoir</i> to have	<i>ayant</i>
<i>être</i> to be	<i>étant</i>
<i>savoir</i> to know	<i>sachant</i>

Mnemonic tip

If you're not sure which is a present participle and which is a past participle in French, associate the *n* in present with the *n* in the French ending *-ant* of a present participle.

En + Present Participle

The present participle in French is used primarily with the preposition *en*, meaning "on," "upon," "in," "while," "by."

- en chantant* / while singing
- en finissant* / upon finishing
- en vendant* / by selling
- en mangeant* / upon eating, while eating
- en voyageant* / by traveling
- en ayant* / on having
- en étant* / on being, upon being
- en sachant* / upon knowing

The present participle is sometimes used as an adjective.

- un enfant amusant* / an amusing child (boy)
- une enfant amusante* / an amusing child (girl)

§7.5 VERBS AND PREPOSITIONS

Verb + à + Noun or Pronoun

- assister à quelque chose (à un assemblage, à une réunion, à un spectacle, etc.) / to attend or be present at (a gathering, a meeting, a theatrical presentation, etc.)

Allez-vous assister à la conférence du professeur Godard? / Are you going to attend (be present at) Professor Godard's lecture?—Oui, je vais y assister. / Yes, I am going to attend it.

- demander à quelqu'un / to ask someone

Demandez à la dame où s'arrête l'autobus. / Ask the lady where the bus stops.

- désobéir à quelqu'un / to disobey someone

Ce chien ne désobéit jamais à son maître. / This dog never disobeys his master.

Il ne lui désobéit jamais. / He never disobeys him.

- être à quelqu'un / to belong to someone

Ce livre est à Victor. / This book belongs to Victor.

- faire attention à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose / to pay attention to someone or to something

Faites attention au professeur. / Pay attention to the professor.

- s'intéresser à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose / to be interested in someone or something

Je m'intéresse aux sports. / I am interested in sports.

- jouer à / to play (a game or sport)

Il aime bien jouer à la balle. / He likes to play ball.

Elle aime bien jouer au tennis. / She likes to play tennis.

- obéir à quelqu'un / to obey someone

Une personne honorable obéit à ses parents. / An honorable person obeys his (her) parents.

56 The Parts of Speech

- *participer à quelque chose* / to participate in something

Je participe aux sports. / I participate in sports.

- *penser à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose* / to think of (about) someone or something

Je pense à mes amis. / I am thinking of my friends.

Je pense à eux. / I am thinking of them.

Je pense à mon travail. / I am thinking about my work.

J'y pense. / I am thinking about it.

- *répondre à quelqu'un ou à quelque chose* / to answer someone or something

J'ai répondu au professeur. / I answered the teacher.

Je lui ai répondu. / I answered him.

J'ai répondu à la lettre. / I answered the letter.

J'y ai répondu. / I answered it.

- *ressembler à quelqu'un* / to resemble someone

Il ressemble beaucoup à sa mère. / He resembles his mother a lot.

- *réussir à quelque chose* / to succeed in something

réussir à un examen / to pass an examination

Il a réussi à l'examen. / He passed the exam.

- *téléphoner à quelqu'un* / to telephone someone

Marie a téléphoné à Paul. / Marie telephoned Paul.

Elle lui a téléphoné. / She telephoned him.

Verb + à + Infinitive

- *aider à* / to help

Roger aide son petit frère à faire son devoir de mathématiques.

Roger is helping his little brother to do his math homework.

- *s'amuser à* / to amuse oneself, enjoy, have fun

Il y a des élèves qui s'amusent à mettre le professeur en colère. / There are pupils who enjoy making the teacher angry.

• **apprendre à / to learn**

J'apprends à lire. / I am learning to read.

• **s'attendre à / to expect**

Je m'attendais à trouver une salle de classe vide. / I was expecting to find an empty classroom.

• **avoir à / to have to, to be obliged to (do something)**

J'ai mes devoirs à faire ce soir. / I have to do my homework tonight.

• **commencer à / to begin**

Il commence à pleuvoir. / It is beginning to rain.

• **continuer à / to continue**

Je continue à étudier le français. / I am continuing to study French.

• **décider quelqu'un à / to persuade someone**

J'ai décidé mon père à me prêter quelques francs. / I persuaded my father to lend me a few francs.

• **se décider à / to make up one's mind**

Il s'est décidé à l'épouser. / He made up his mind to marry her.

• **demander à / to ask, request**

Elle demande à parler. / She asks to speak.

• **encourager à / to encourage**

Je l'ai encouragé à suivre un cours de français. / I encouraged him to take a course in French.

• **enseigner à / to teach**

Je vous enseigne à lire en français. / I am teaching you to read in French.

58 The Parts of Speech

- *s'habituer à* / to get used (to)

Je m'habitue à parler français couramment. / I am getting used to speaking French fluently.

- *hésiter à* / to hesitate

J'hésite à répondre à sa lettre. / I hesitate to reply to her (his) letter.

- *inviter à* / to invite

Monsieur et Madame Boivin ont invité les Béry à dîner chez eux. / Mr. and Mrs. Boivin invited the Bérys to have dinner at their house.

- *se mettre à* / to begin

L'enfant se met à rire. / The child is beginning to laugh.

- *parvenir à* / to succeed

Elle est parvenue à être docteur. / She succeeded in becoming a doctor.

- *se plaire à* / to take pleasure in

Il se plaît à taquiner ses amis. / He takes pleasure in teasing his friends.

- *recommencer à* / to begin again

Il recommence à pleuvoir. / It is beginning to rain again.

- *réussir à* / to succeed in

Henri a réussi à me convaincre. / Henry succeeded in convincing me.

- *songer à* / to dream; to think

Elle songe à trouver un millionnaire. / She is dreaming of finding a millionaire.

tenir à / to insist, be anxious

Je tiens absolument à voir mon enfant immédiatement. / I am very anxious to see my child immediately.

Verb + de + Noun

s'agir de / to be a question of, a matter of

Il s'agit de l'amour. / It is a matter of love.

s'approcher de / to approach

La dame s'approche de la porte et elle l'ouvre. / The lady approaches the door and opens it.

changer de / to change

Je dois changer de train à Paris. / I have to change trains in Paris.

se douter de / to suspect

Je me doute de ses opinions. / I suspect his (her) opinions.

féliciter de / to congratulate on

Je vous félicite de vos progrès. / I congratulate you on your progress.

jouer de / to play (a musical instrument)

Je sais jouer du piano. / I know how to play the piano.

manquer de / to lack

Cette personne manque de politesse. / This person lacks courtesy.

se méfier de / to distrust, to mistrust, to beware of

Je me méfie des personnes que je ne connais pas. / I distrust persons whom I do not know.

se moquer de / to make fun of

Les enfants aiment se moquer d'un singe. / Children like to make fun of a monkey.

60 The Parts of Speech

- *s'occuper de* / to be busy with

Madame Boulanger s'occupe de son mari infirme. / Mrs. Boulanger is busy with her disabled husband.

Je m'occupe de mes affaires. / I mind my own business.
Occupez-vous de vos affaires! / Mind your own business!

- *partir de* / to leave

Il est parti de la maison à huit heures. / He left the house at eight o'clock.

- *se plaindre de* / to complain about

Il se plaint toujours de son travail. / He always complains about his work.

- *remercier de* / to thank

Je vous remercie de votre bonté. / I thank you for your kindness

(Use *remercier de* + an abstract noun or infinitive; *remercier pour* + a concrete object; e.g., *Je vous remercie pour le cadeau.* / I thank you for the present.)

- *se rendre compte de* / to realize, to be aware of

Je me rends compte de la condition de cette personne. / I am aware of the condition of this person.

- *se servir de* / to employ, use, make use of

Je me sers d'un stylo quand j'écris une lettre. / I use a pen when I write a letter.

- *se souvenir de* / to remember

Oui, je me souviens de Gervaise. / Yes, I remember Gervaise.
Je me souviens de lui. / I remember him.
Je me souviens d'elle. / I remember her.
Je me souviens de l'été passé. / I remember last summer.
Je m'en souviens. / I remember it.

tenir de / to take after (to resemble)

Julie tient de sa mère. / Julie takes after her mother.

Verb + *de* + Infinitive

s'agir de / to be a question of, a matter of

Il s'agit de faire les devoirs tous les jours. / It is a matter of doing the homework every day.

avoir peur de / to be afraid of

Le petit garçon a peur de traverser la rue seul. / The little boy is afraid of crossing the street alone.

cesser de / to stop, cease

Il a cessé de pleuvoir. / It has stopped raining.

craindre de / to be afraid of, fear

La petite fille craint de traverser la rue seule. / The little girl is afraid of crossing the street alone.

décider de / to decide

J'ai décidé de partir tout de suite. / I decided to leave immediately.

demander de / to ask, request

Je vous demande de parler. / I am asking you to speak.

[Note that here the subjects are different: *I* am asking *you* to speak; but when the subjects are the same, use *demande à*: *Elle demande à parler.* / She is asking to speak.]

se dépêcher de / to hurry

Je me suis dépêché de venir chez vous pour vous dire quelque chose. / I hurried to come to your place in order to tell you something.

62 The Parts of Speech

- **empêcher de** / to keep from, prevent

Je vous empêche de sortir. / I prevent you from going out.

- **essayer de** / to try

J'essaye d'ouvrir la porte mais je ne peux pas. / I'm trying to open the door but I can't.

- **féliciter de** / to congratulate

On m'a félicité d'avoir gagné le prix. / I was congratulated on having won the prize.

- **finir de** / to finish

J'ai fini de travailler sur cette composition. / I have finished working on this composition.

- **se hâter de** / to hurry

Je me hâte de venir chez toi. / I am hurrying to come to your house.

- **offrir de**/ to offer

J'ai offert d'écrire une lettre pour elle./ I offered to write a letter for her.

- **oublier de**/ to forget

J'ai oublié de vous donner la monnaie./ I forgot to give you the change.

- **persuader de**/ to persuade

J'ai persuadé mon père de me prêter quelques francs./ I persuaded my father to lend me a few francs.

- **prendre garde de**/ to take care not to

Prenez garde de tomber./ Be careful not to fall.

- *prier de/ to beg*

Je vous prie d'arrêter./ I beg you to stop.

- *promettre de/ to promise*

J'ai promis de venir chez toi à huit heures./ I promised to come to your place at eight o'clock.

- *refuser de/ to refuse*

Je refuse de le croire./ I refuse to believe it.

- *regretter de/ to regret, be sorry*

Je regrette d'être obligé de vous dire cela./ I am sorry to be obliged to tell you that.

- *remercier de/ to thank*

*Je vous remercie d'être venu si vite./ I thank you for coming (having come) so quickly. (Use *remercier de* + infinitive or + abstract noun. Use *remercier pour* + concrete object.)*

- *se souvenir de/ to remember*

Tu vois? Je me suis souvenu de venir chez toi./ You see? I remembered to come to your house.

- *tâcher de/ to try*

Tâche de finir tes devoirs avant de sortir./ Try to finish your homework before going out.

- *venir de/ to have just (done something)*

Je viens de manger./ I have just eaten. (I just ate.)

Verb + à + Noun + de + Infinitive

The model to follow is: *J'ai conseillé à Robert de suivre un cours de français. / I advised Robert to take a course in French.*

64 The Parts of Speech

- **conseiller à / to advise**

J'ai conseillé à Jeanne de se marier. / I advised Joan to get married.

- **défendre à / to forbid**

Mon père défend à mon frère de fumer. / My father forbids my brother to smoke.

- **demander à / to ask, request**

J'ai demandé à Marie de venir. / I asked Mary to come.

- **dire à / to say, to tell**

J'ai dit à Charles de venir. / I told Charles to come.

- **interdire à / to forbid**

Mon père interdit à mon frère de fumer. / My father forbids my brother to smoke.

- **permettre à / to permit**

J'ai permis à l'étudiant de partir quelques minutes avant la fin de la classe. / I permitted the student to leave a few minutes before the end of class.

- **promettre à / to promise**

J'ai promis à mon ami d'arriver à l'heure. / I promised my friend to arrive on time.

- **téléphoner à / to telephone**

J'ai téléphoné à Marcel de venir me voir. / I phoned Marcel to come to see me.

Verb + Other Prepositions

- **commencer par + infinitive / to begin by + present participle**

La présidente a commencé par discuter des problèmes de la société. / The president began by discussing problems in society.

- *s'entendre avec quelqu'un* / to get along with someone

Jean s'entend avec Christophe. / John gets along with Christopher.

- *entrer dans + noun* / to enter, go in

Elle est entrée dans le restaurant. / She went into the restaurant.

- *insister pour + infinitive* / to insist on, upon

J'insiste pour obtenir tous mes droits. / I insist on obtaining all my rights.

- *se marier avec quelqu'un* / to marry someone

Elle va se marier avec lui. / She is going to marry him.

- *se mettre en colère* / to become angry, upset

Monsieur Leduc se met en colère facilement. / Mr. Leduc gets angry easily.

- *se mettre en route* / to start out, set out

Ils se sont mis en route dès l'aube. / They started out at dawn.

- *remercier pour + a concrete noun* / to thank for

Je vous remercie pour le joli cadeau. / I thank you for the pretty present. (Remember to use *remercier de* + an abstract noun or + infinitive: *Je vous remercie de votre bonté.* / I thank you for your kindness. *Je vous remercie d'être venue si vite.* / I thank you for coming so quickly.)

Verb + no preposition + Infinitive

The following verbs take *no* preposition and are followed directly by the infinitive.

- *adorer* / to adore, love

Madame Morin adore mettre tous ses bijoux avant de sortir.
Mrs. Morin loves to put on all her jewelry before going out.

66 The Parts of Speech

- *aimer/ to like*

J'aime lire./ I like to read.

- *aimer mieux/ to prefer*

J'aime mieux rester ici./ I prefer to stay here.

- *aller/ to go*

Je vais faire mes devoirs./ I am going to do my homework.

- *compter/ to intend*

Je compte aller en France l'été prochain./ I intend to go to France next summer.

- *croire/ to believe*

Il croit être innocent./ He believes he is innocent.

- *désirer/ to desire, wish*

Je désire prendre une tasse de café./ I wish to have a cup of coffee.

- *devoir/ to have to, ought to*

Je dois faire mes devoirs avant de sortir./ I have to do my homework before going out.

- *écouter/ to listen to*

J'écoute chanter les enfants./ I am listening to the children singing.

- *entendre/ to hear*

J'entends chanter les enfants./ I hear the children singing.

- *espérer/ to hope*

J'espère aller en France./ I hope to go to France.

- *faire/ to cause; to make; to have something done by someone*

*Le professeur fait travailler les élèves dans la salle de classe.
The teacher has the pupils work in the classroom.*

Illoir / to be necessary

Il faut être honnête. / One must be honest.

isser / to let, allow

Je vous laisse partir. / I am letting you go.

araître / to appear, seem

Elle paraît être capable. / She appears to be capable.

eniser / to think, plan, intend

Je pense aller à Paris. / I intend to go to Paris.

ouvoir / to be able, can

Je peux marcher mieux maintenant. / I can walk better now.

référer / to prefer

Je préfère manger maintenant. / I prefer to eat now.

egarder / to look at

Je regarde voler les oiseaux. / I am looking at the birds flying.

avoir / to know, know how

Je sais nager. / I know how to swim.

aloir mieux / to be better

Il vaut mieux être honnête. / It is better to be honest.

ouloir / to want

Je veux venir chez vous. / I want to come to your house.

Verbs That Do Not Require a Preposition

ttendre / to wait for

J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes. / I have been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.

68 The Parts of Speech

- *chercher* / to look for

Je cherche mon livre. / I'm looking for my book.

- *demander* / to ask for

Je demande une réponse. / I am asking for a reply.

- *écouter* / to listen to

J'écoute la musique. / I am listening to the music.

J'écoute le professeur. / I am listening to the teacher.

- *envoyer chercher* / to send for

J'ai envoyé chercher le docteur. / I sent for the doctor.

- *essayer* / to try on

Elle a essayé une jolie robe. / She tried on a pretty dress.

- *mettre* / to put on

Elle a mis la robe rouge. / She put on the red dress.

- *payer* / to pay for

J'ai payé le dîner. / I paid for the dinner.

- *pleurer* / to cry about, cry over

Elle pleure la perte de son petit chien. / She is crying over the loss of her little dog.

- *regarder* / to look at

Je regarde le ciel. / I am looking at the sky.

§7.6 COMPLETE CONJUGATION OF AN AVOIR VERB

Present participle: *parlant* / talking, speaking; Past participle: *parlé* / talked, spoken; Infinitive: *parler* / to talk, to speak

Present indicative *je parle, tu parles, il (elle, on) parle; nous parlons, vous parlez, ils (elles) parlent*

I talk, you talk, he (she, it, one) talks; we talk,
you talk, they talk

OR

I do talk, etc.

OR

I am talking, etc.

Imperfect
indicative *je parlais, tu parlais, il (elle, on) parlait; nous parlions, vous parliez, ils (elles) parlaient*

I was talking, you were talking, he (she, it,
one) was talking; we were talking, you were
talking, they were talking

OR

I used to talk, etc.

OR

I talked, etc.

Past
definite *je parlai, tu parlas, il (elle, on) parla; nous parlâmes, vous parlâtes, ils (elles) parlèrent*

I talked, you talked, he (she, it, one) talked; we
talked, you talked, they talked

OR

I did talk, etc.

Future *je parlerai, tu parleras, il (elle, on) parlera;
nous parlerons, vous parlerez, ils (elles)
parleront*

I shall talk, you will talk, he (she, it, one) will
talk; we shall talk, you will talk, they will talk

Conditional
present *je parlerais, tu parlerais, il (elle, on) parlerait;
nous parlerions, vous parleriez, ils (elles)
parleraient*

70 The Parts of Speech

I would talk, you would talk, he (she, it, one) would talk; we would talk, you would talk, they would talk

Present subjunctive *que je parle, que tu parles, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) parle; que nous parlions, que vous parliez, qu'ils (qu'elles) parlent*

that I may talk, that you may talk, that he (she, it, one) may talk; that we may talk, that you may talk, that they may talk

Imperfect subjunctive *que je parlasse, que tu parlasses, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) parlât; que nous parlassions, que vous parlassiez, qu'ils (qu'elles) parlassent*

that I might talk, that you might talk, that he (she, it, one) might talk; that we might talk, that you might talk, that they might talk

Past indefinite *j'ai parlé, tu as parlé, il (elle, on) a parlé; nous avons parlé, vous avez parlé, ils (elles) ont parlé*

I talked, you talked, he (she, it, one) talked; we talked, you talked, they talked

OR

I have talked, you have talked, he (she, it, one) has talked; we have talked, you have talked, they have talked

OR

I did talk, you did talk, he (she, it, one) did talk; we did talk, you did talk, they did talk

Pluperfect indicative *j'avais parlé, tu avais parlé, il (elle, on) avait parlé; nous avions parlé, vous aviez parlé, ils (elles) avaient parlé*

I had talked, you had talked, he (she, it, one) had talked; we had talked, you had talked, they had talked

Past anterior *j'eus parlé, tu eus parlé, il (elle, on) eut parlé; nous eûmes parlé, vous eûtes parlé, ils (elles) eurent parlé*

I had talked, you had talked, he (she, it, one) had talked; we had talked, you had talked, they had talked

Future perfect *j'aurai parlé, tu auras parlé, il (elle, on) aura parlé; nous aurons parlé, vous aurez parlé, ils (elles) auront parlé*

I shall have talked, you will have talked, he (she, it, one) will have talked; we shall have talked, you will have talked, they will have talked

Conditional perfect *j'aurais parlé, tu aurais parlé, il (elle, on) aurait parlé; nous aurions parlé, vous auriez parlé, ils (elles) auraient parlé*

I would have talked, you would have talked, he (she, it, one) would have talked; we would have talked, you would have talked, they would have talked

Past subjunctive *que j'aie parlé, que tu aies parlé, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) ait parlé; que nous ayons parlé, que vous ayez parlé, qu'ils (qu'elles) aient parlé*

that I may have talked, that you may have talked, that he (she, it, one) may have talked; that we may have talked, that you may have talked, that they may have talked

72 The Parts of Speech

Pluperfect subjunctive *que j'eusse parlé, que tu eusses parlé, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) eût parlé; que nous eussions parlé, que vous eussiez parlé, qu'ils (qu'elles) eussent parlé*

that I might have talked, that you might have talked, that he (she, it, one) might have talked; that we might have talked, that you might have talked, that they might have talked

Imperative *parle, parlons, parlez*
 talk, let's talk, talk

§7.7 COMPLETE CONJUGATION OF AN ÊTRE VERB

Present participle: *venant* / coming; Past participle: *venu* / come; Infinitive: *venir* / to come

Present indicative *je viens, tu viens, il (elle, on) vient; nous venons, vous venez, ils (elles) viennent*
 I come, you come, he (she, it, one) comes; we come, you come, they come
 OR
 I do come, etc.
 OR
 I am coming, etc.

Imperfect indicative *je venais, tu venais, il (elle, on) venait; nous venions, vous veniez, ils (elles) venaient*
 I was coming, you were coming, he (she, it, one) was coming; we were coming, you were

coming, they were coming

OR

I used to come, etc.

OR

I came, etc.

Past
definite

*je vins, tu vins, il (elle, on) vint; nous vîmes,
vous vîtes, ils (elles) vinrent*

I came, you came, he (she, it, one) came; we
came, you came, they came

OR

I did come, etc.

Future

*je viendrai, tu viendras, il (elle, on) viendra;
nous viendrons, vous viendrez, ils (elles)
viendront*

I shall come, you will come, he (she, it, one)
will come; we shall come, you will come, they
will come

Conditional
present

*je viendrais, tu viendrais, il (elle, on) viendrait;
nous viendrions, vous viendriez, ils (elles)
viendraient*

I would come, you would come, he (she, it,
one) would come; we would come, you would
come, they would come

Present
subjunctive

*que je vienne, que tu viennes, qu'il (qu'elle,
qu'on) vienne; que nous venions, que vous
veniez, qu'ils (qu'elles) viennent*

that I may come, that you may come, that he
(she, it, one) may come; that we may come,
that you may come, that they may come

74 The Parts of Speech

Imperfect subjunctive	<i>que je vinsse, que tu vinsses, qu'il (qu'elle, qu'on) vînt; que nous vinssions, que vous vinssiez, qu'ils (qu'elles) vinssent</i> that I might come, that you might come, that he (she, it, one) might come; that we might come, that you might come; that they might come
Past indefinite	<i>je suis venu(e), tu es venu(e), il (on) est venu, elle est venue; nous sommes venu(e)s, vous êtes venu(e)(s), ils sont venus, elles sont venues</i> I came, you came, he (she, it, one) came; we came, you came, they came OR I have come, etc. OR I did come, etc.
Pluperfect indicative	<i>j'étais venu(e), tu étais venu(e), il, on était venu, elle était venue; nous étions venu(e)s, vous étiez venu(e)(s), ils étaient venus, elles étaient venues</i> I had come, you had come, he (she, it, one) had come; we had come, you had come, they had come
Past anterior	<i>je fus venu(e), tu fus venu(e), il (on) fut venu, elle fut venue; nous fûmes venu(e)s, vous fûtes venu(e)(s), ils furent venus, elles furent venues</i> I had come, you had come, he (she, it, one) had come; we had come, you had come, they had come

Future perfect	<i>je serai venu(e), tu seras venu(e), il (on) sera venu, elle sera venue; nous serons venu(e)s, vous serez venu(e)(s), ils seront venus, elles seront venues</i>
	I shall have come, you will have come, he (she, it, one) will have come; we shall have come, you will have come, they will have come
Conditional perfect	<i>je serais venu(e), tu serais venu(e), il (on) serait venu, elle serait venue; nous serions venu(e)s, vous seriez venu(e)(s), ils seraient venus, elles seraient venues</i>
	I would have come, you would have come, he (she, it, one) would have come; we would have come, you would have come, they would have come
Past subjunctive	<i>que je sois venu(e), que tu sois venu(e), qu'il (on) soit venu, qu'elle soit venue; que nous soyons venu(e)s, que vous soyez venu(e)(s), qu'ils soient venus, qu'elles soient venues</i>
	that I may have come, that you may have come, that he (she, it, one) may have come; that we may have come, that you may have come, that they may have come
Pluperfect subjunctive	<i>que je fusse venu(e), que tu fusses venu(e), qu'il (qu'on) fût venu, qu'elle fût venue; que nous fussions venu(e)s, que vous fussiez venu(e)(s), qu'ils fussent venus, qu'elles fussent venues</i>
	that I might have come, that you might have come, that he (she, it, one) might have come;

76 The Parts of Speech

that we might have come, that you might have come
come, that they might have come

Imperative *viens, venons, venez*
 come, let's come, come

§7.8 TENSES AND MOODS

§7.8-1 Present Indicative Tense

The *present indicative* is the most frequently used tense in French and English. It indicates:

- An action or a state of being at the present time.

*Je vais à l'école maintenant./ I am going to school now.
Je pense; donc, je suis./ I think; therefore, I am.*

- Habitual action.

Je vais à la bibliothèque tous les jours./ I go to the library every day.

- A general truth, something that is permanently true.

*Deux et deux font quatre./ Two and two are four.
Voir c'est croire./ Seeing is believing.*

- Vividness when talking or writing about past events.

Marie-Antoinette est condamnée à mort. Elle monte dans la charrette qui est en route pour la guillotine./ Marie-Antoinette is condemned to die. She gets into the cart and is on her way to the guillotine.

- A near future.

Il arrive demain./ He arrives tomorrow.

An action or state of being that occurred in the past and continues up to the present. In English, this tense is the present perfect, which is formed with the present tense of "to have" plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

Je suis ici depuis dix minutes./ I have been here for ten minutes. (I am still here at present.)

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

Drop the *-er* ending of an infinitive like *parler*, and add *-e, -es, -e; -ons, -ez, -ent*.

You then get:

je parle, tu parles, il (elle, on) parle; nous parlons, vous parlez, ils (elles) parlent

Drop the *-ir* ending of an infinitive like *finir*, and add *-is, -is, -it; -issons, -issez, -issent*.

You then get:

je finis, tu finis, il (elle, on) finit; nous finissons, vous finissez, ils (elles) finissent

Drop the *-re* ending of an infinitive like *vendre*, and add *-s, -s, —; -ons, -ez, -ent*.

You then get:

je vends, tu vends, il (elle, on) vend; nous vendons, vous vendez, ils (elles) vendent

For the present tense of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

§7.8–2 Imperfect Indicative Tense

The *imperfect indicative* is a past tense. It is used to indicate:

An action that was going on in the past at the same time as another action.

78 The Parts of Speech

Il lisait pendant que j'écrivais. / He was reading while I was writing.

- An action that was going on in the past when another action occurred.

Il lisait quand je suis entré. / He was reading when I came in.

- An action that was performed habitually in the past.

Nous allions à la plage tous les jours. / We used to go to the beach every day.

- A description of a mental or physical condition in the past.

(mental) *Il était triste quand je l'ai vu.* / He was sad when I saw him.

(physical) *Quand ma mère était jeune, elle était belle.* / When my mother was young, she was beautiful.

- An action or state of being that occurred in the past and lasted for a certain length of time prior to another past action

J'attendais l'autobus depuis dix minutes quand il est arrivé. / I had been waiting for the bus for ten minutes when it arrived.

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

For -er, -ir, and -re verbs, take the “*nous*” form in the present indicative tense of the verb you have in mind, drop the first person plural ending (-ons), and add the endings -ais, -ais, -ait; -ions, -iez, -aient.

Mnemonic tip The vowel *i* is in each of the six endings and *i* is the first letter of the *imperfect* tense.

For the imperfect indicative of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

§7.8–3 Past Simple Tense

This past tense expresses an action that took place at some definite time. It is not ordinarily used in conversational

French or in informal writing. It is a literary tense—used in formal writing, such as history and literature.

The past simple tense is regularly formed as follows:

For all -er verbs, drop the -er of the infinitive and add -ai, -as, -a; -âmes, -âtes, -èrent.

For regular -ir and -re verbs, drop the ending of the infinitive and add the endings -is, -is, -it; -îmes, -îtes, -irent.

Il alla en Afrique. / He went to Africa.

Il voyagea en Amérique. / He traveled to America.

Elle fut heureuse. / She was happy.

Elle eut un grand bonheur. / She had great happiness.

For the past definite of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

§7.8-4 Future Tense

In French and English the *future* tense is used to express an action or a state of being which will take place at some time in the future.

J'irai en France l'été prochain. / I will go to France next summer.

J'y penserai. / I will think about it.

Je partirai dès qu'il arrivera. / I will leave as soon as he arrives.

Je te dirai tout quand tu seras ici. / I will tell you all when you are here.

If the action of the verb you are using is not past or present and if future time is implied, the future tense is used when the clause begins with the following conjunctions: *aussitôt que*/ as soon as, *dès que*/ as soon as, *quand*/ when, *lorsque*/ when, and *tant que*/ as long as.

This tense is regularly formed as follows:

Add the following endings to the whole infinitive: -ai, -as, -a, -ons, -ez, -ont. For -re verbs you must drop the e in -re before you add the future endings.

For the future of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

§7.8–5 Conditional Present Tense

The conditional mood is used in French and English to express:

- An action that you would do if something else were possible.

Je ferais le travail si j'en avais le temps. / I would do the work if I had the time.

- A conditional desire.

J'aimerais du thé. / I would like some tea.

Je voudrais du café. / I would like some coffee.

- An obligation or duty.

Je devrais étudier pour l'examen. / I should study for the examination.

The conditional has two tenses, the present and the past.

The present conditional is regularly formed as follows:

Add the following endings to the whole infinitive: *-ais, -ais, -ait; -ions, -iez, -aient*. For *-re* verbs you must drop the *e* in *-re* before you add the conditional endings. Note that these endings are the same ones you use to form regularly the imperfect indicative. For the conditional of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19.

§7.8–6 Present Subjunctive Tense

The subjunctive mood is used in French much more than in English. It is used in the following ways:

- After a verb that expresses some kind of insistence, preference, or suggestion.

Nous insistons que vous soyez ici à l'heure. / We insist that you be here on time.

Je préfère qu'il fasse le travail maintenant. / I prefer that he do the work now.

Le juge exige qu'il soit puni. / The judge demands that he be punished.

- After a verb that expresses doubt, fear, joy, sorrow, or some other emotion.

Sylvie doute qu'il vienne. / Sylvia doubts that he is coming.

Je suis heureux qu'il vienne. / I'm happy that he is coming.

Je regrette qu'il soit malade. / I'm sorry that he is sick.

- After certain conjunctions.

Elle partira à moins qu'il ne vienne. / She will leave unless he comes.

Je resterai jusqu'à ce qu'il vienne. / I will stay until he comes.

Quoiqu'elle soit belle, il ne l'aime pas. / Although she is beautiful, he does not love her.

Le professeur l'explique pour qu'elle comprenne. / The teacher is explaining it so that she may understand.

- After certain impersonal expressions that show a need, a doubt, a possibility or an impossibility.

Il est urgent qu'il vienne. / It is urgent that he come.

Il vaut mieux qu'il vienne. / It is better that he come.

Il est possible qu'il vienne. / It is possible that he will come.

Il est douteux qu'il vienne. / It is doubtful that he will come.

The present subjunctive is regularly formed by dropping the *-ant* ending of the present participle of the verb you are using and adding the endings *-e*, *-es*, *-e*; *-ions*, *-iez*, *-ent*.

For the present subjunctive of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19. See also Subjunctive, §7.15.

§7.8–7 Imperfect Subjunctive Tense

The *imperfect subjunctive* is used in the same ways as the present subjunctive, that is, after certain verbs, conjunc-

tions, and impersonal expressions. The main difference between these two is the time of the action. If present, use the present subjunctive. If the action is related to the past, the imperfect subjunctive is used, provided that the action was not completed.

Je voulais qu'il viñt. / I wanted him to come. (action not completed; he did not come while I wanted him to come)

Note: The subjunctive of *venir* is used because *vouloir* requires the subjunctive after it. In conversational French and informal writing, the imperfect subjunctive is avoided. Use, instead, the present subjunctive.

Je voulais qu'il vienne. / I wanted him to come.

Je le lui expliquais pour qu'elle le comprît. / I was explaining it to her so that she might understand it. (action not completed; the understanding was not completed at the time of the explaining)

Note: The subjunctive of *comprendre* is used because the conjunction *pour que* requires the subjunctive after it. Again, avoid using the imperfect subjunctive in conversation and informal writing. Use, instead, the present subjunctive: *Je le lui expliquais pour qu'elle le comprenne.*

The imperfect subjunctive is regularly formed by dropping the endings of the *passé simple* of the verb you are using and adding the following endings:

-er verbs: -asse, -asses, -ât; -assions, -assiez, -assent
-ir verbs: -isse, -isses, -ît; -issions, -issiez, -issent
-re verbs: -usse, -usses, -ût; -ussions, -ussiez, -ussent

For the imperfect subjunctive of *avoir* and *être*, see §7.19. See also Subjunctive, §7.15.

§7.8–8 Past Indefinite Tense

This past tense expresses an action that took place at no definite time. It is used in conversational French, correspondence, and other informal writing. The past indefinite is used more and more in literature these days and is taking the place of the past definite. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the present indicative of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle. See §7.3 for the distinction made between verbs conjugated with *avoir* or *être*. This is the *passé composé*.

Il est allé à l'école. / He went to school; He did go to school; He has gone to school.

J'ai mangé dans ce restaurant de nombreuses fois. / I have eaten in this restaurant many times.

J'ai parlé au garçon. / I spoke to the boy; I have spoken to the boy; I did speak to the boy.

§7.8–9 Pluperfect Tense

In French and English this tense (also called the *past perfect*) is used to express an action that happened in the past before another past action. Since it is used in relation to another past action, the other past action is expressed in either the past indefinite or the imperfect indicative in French. The pluperfect is used in formal writing and literature as well as in conversational French and informal writing. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the imperfect indicative of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle. See §7.3 for the distinction made between verbs conjugated with *avoir* or *être*.

Je me suis rappelé que j'avais oublié de le lui dire. / I remembered that I had forgotten to tell him.

84 The Parts of Speech

Note: It would be incorrect to say: I remembered that I forgot to tell him. The point here is that first I forgot; then I remembered. Both actions are in the past. The action that occurred in the past *before* the other past action is in the pluperfect. And in this example it is “I had forgotten” (*j'avais oublié*).

J'avais étudié la leçon que le professeur a expliquée. / I had studied the lesson that the teacher explained.

Note: First I studied the lesson; then the teacher explained it. Both actions are in the past. The action that occurred in the past before the other past action is in the pluperfect. And in this example it is “I had studied” (*j'avais étudié*).

J'étais fatigué ce matin parce que je n'avais pas dormi. / I was tired this morning because I had not slept.

§7.8–10 Past Anterior Tense

This tense is similar to the pluperfect indicative. The main difference is that in French it is a literary tense; that is, it is used in formal writing such as history and literature. More and more French writers today use the pluperfect indicative instead of the past anterior. The past anterior is a compound tense and is formed with the *passé simple* of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle. It is ordinarily introduced by conjunctions of time: *après que*, *aussitôt que*, *dès que*, *lorsque*, *quand*.

Quand il eut tout mangé, il partit. / When he had eaten everything, he left.

§7.8–11 Future Perfect Tense

In French and English this tense (also called the *future anterior*) is used to express an action that will happen in the

future *before* another future action. Since it is used in relation to another future action, the other future action is expressed in the simple future in French. It is used in conversation and informal writing as well as in formal writing and in literature. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the future of *avoir* or *être* (depending on which of these two auxiliaries is required to form a compound tense) plus the past participle of the verb you are using. In English, it is formed by using “will have” plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

Elle arrivera demain et j'aurai fini le travail. / She will arrive tomorrow and I will have finished the work.

Note: First I will finish the work; then she will arrive. The action that will occur in the future *before* the other future action is in the future anterior.

Quand elle arrivera demain, j'aurai fini le travail. / When she arrives tomorrow, I will have finished the work.

Note: The idea of future time here is the same as in the preceding example. In English, the present tense is used (“When she arrives . . .”) to express a near future. In French, the future is used (*Quand elle arrivera . . .*) because *quand* precedes and the action will take place in the future.

§7.8–12 Conditional Perfect Tense

This is used in French and English to express an action that you would have done if something else had been possible; that is, you would have done something on condition that something else had been possible. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the conditional of *avoir* or *être* plus the past participle of the verb you are using. In English, it is formed by using “would have” plus the past participle.

86 The Parts of Speech

J'aurais fait le travail si j'avais étudié. / I would have done the work if I had studied.

J'aurais fait le travail si j'en avais eu le temps. / I would have done the work if I had had the time.

§7.8–13 Past Subjunctive Tense

This tense is used to express an action that took place in the past in relation to the present. It is like the past indefinite, except that the auxiliary verb (*avoir* or *être*) is in the present subjunctive. The subjunctive is used because what precedes is a certain verb, conjunction, or impersonal expression. The past subjunctive is also used in relation to a future time when another action will be completed. In French this tense is used in formal writing and in literature as well as in conversation and informal writing. It is a compound tense because it is formed with the present subjunctive of *avoir* or *être* as the auxiliary plus the past participle of the verb you are using.

A past action in relation to the present:

Il est possible qu'elle soit partie. / It is possible that she has left.
Je doute qu'il ait fait cela. / I doubt that he did that.

An action that will take place in the future:

Je désire que vous soyez rentré avant dix heures. / I want you to be back before ten o'clock.

§7.8–14 Pluperfect Subjunctive Tense

This tense (also called the *past perfect*) is used for the same reasons as the imperfect subjunctive—that is, after certain verbs, conjunctions, and impersonal expressions. The main difference between the imperfect and the pluperfect subjunctive is the time of the action in the past. If the action was not completed, the imperfect subjunctive is used; if the action was completed, the pluperfect is used. In French, it is used only in formal writing and literature.

Il était possible qu'elle fût partie. / It was possible that she might have left.

NOTE: Avoid this tense in French. Use the past subjunctive instead: *Il était possible qu'elle soit partie.*

§7.8–15 Imperative Mood

The *imperative mood* is used in French and English to express a command or request. It is also used to express an indirect request made in the third person. In both languages it is formed by dropping the subject and using the present tense. There are a few exceptions in both languages when the present subjunctive is used.

Sortez! / Get out! *Asseyez-vous!* / Sit down!

Entrez! / Come in! *Levez-vous!* / Get up!

Soyez à l'heure! / Be on time! (subjunctive used)

Dieu le veuille! / May God grant it! (subjunctive used)

Qu'ils mangent du gâteau! / Let them eat cake! (subjunctive used)

You must drop the final s in the second person singular of an -er verb. This is done in the affirmative and negative, as in: *Mange!* / Eat! *Ne mange pas!* / Don't eat! However, when the pronouns *y* and *en* are linked to it, the s is retained in all regular -er verbs and in the verb *aller*. The reason for this is that it makes it easier to link the two elements by pronouncing the s as a z.

Donnes-en! / Give some!

Manges-en! / Eat some!

Vas-y! / Go there!

§7.9 PASSIVE VOICE

When verbs are used in the active voice, which is almost all the time, the subject performs the action. When the passive voice is used, the subject of the sentence is not the performer; the action falls on the subject. The agent (the

88 The Parts of Speech

performer) is sometimes expressed, sometimes not, as is done in English. The passive voice, therefore, is composed of the verb in the passive, which is any tense of *être* + the past participle of the verb you are using to indicate the action performed upon the subject. Since *être* is the verb used in the passive voice, the past participle of your other verb must agree with the subject in gender and number.

Jacqueline a été reçue à l'université. / Jacqueline has been accepted at the university.

Ce livre est écrit par un auteur célèbre. / This book is written by a famous author.

Cette composition a été écrite par un jeune élève. / This composition was written by a young student.

There are certain rules you must remember about the passive voice:

- Usually the preposition *de* is used instead of *par* with such verbs as *aimer, admirer, accompagner, apprécier, voir*.

Jacqueline est aimée de tout le monde. / Jacqueline is liked (loved) by everyone.

BUT

Nous avons été suivis par un chien perdu. / We were followed by a lost dog.

- Avoid the passive voice if the thought can be expressed in the active voice with the indefinite pronoun *on* as the subject.

On vend de bonnes choses dans ce magasin. / Good things are sold in this store.

On parle français ici. / French is spoken here.

- You must avoid using the passive voice with a reflexive verb. Always use a reflexive verb with an active subject.

Elle s'appelle Jeanne. / She is called Joan.

Comment se prononce ce mot? / How is this word pronounced?

§7.10 SI CLAUSE: A SUMMARY

When the Verb in the Si clause is in the:	The Verb in the Main or Result Clause is:
present indicative	present indicative, future, or imperative
imperfect indicative	conditional
pluperfect indicative	conditional perfect

- By *si* we mean “if.” Sometimes *si* can mean “whether” and in that case, this summary does not apply because there are no restrictions about the tenses. The sequence of tenses with a *si*- clause is the same in English with an “if” clause.

Si elle arrive, je pars. / If she arrives, I'm leaving.

Si elle arrive, je partirai. / If she arrives, I will leave.

Si elle arrive, partez! / If she arrives, leave!

Si Paul étudiait, il aurait de meilleures notes. / If Paul studied, he would have better grades.

Si Georges avait étudié, il aurait eu de bonnes notes. / If George had studied, he would have had good grades.

§7.11 SPECIAL USES OF COMMON VERBS

DEVOIR / TO OWE; OUGHT TO

- Present

Je dois étudier. / I have to study; I must study; I am supposed to study.

Il doit être fou! / He must be crazy! He's probably crazy!

Mon père doit avoir cinquante ans. / My father must be 50 years old.

90 The Parts of Speech

- Imperfect

Je devais étudier. / I had to study; I was supposed to study.

Quand j'étais à l'école, je devais toujours étudier. / When I was in school, I always had to study.

Ma mère devait avoir cinquante ans quand elle est morte. / My mother was probably 50 years old when she died.

- Future

Je devrai étudier. / I will have to study.

Nous devrons faire le travail ce soir. / We will have to do the work this evening.

- Conditional

Je devrais étudier. / I ought to study. / I should study.

Vous devriez étudier davantage. / You ought to study more; You should study more.

- Past indefinite

Je ne suis pas allé(e) au cinéma parce que j'ai dû étudier. / I did not go to the movies because I had to study.

J'ai dû prendre l'autobus parce qu'il n'y avait pas de train à cette heure-là. / I had to take the bus because there was no train at that hour.

Robert n'est pas ici. / Robert is not here.

Il a dû partir. / He must have left; He has probably left; He had to leave.

- Conditional perfect

J'aurais dû étudier! / I should have studied!

Vous auriez dû me dire la vérité. / You should have told me the truth.

- With a direct or an indirect object there is still another meaning.

Je dois de l'argent. / I owe some money.

Je le lui dois. / I owe it to him (to her).

POUVOIR / TO BE ABLE TO, CAN

- Present

Je ne peux pas sortir aujourd'hui parce que je suis malade. / I cannot (am unable to) go out today because I am sick.

Est-ce que je peux entrer? Puis-je entrer? / May I come in?
Madame Marin peut être malade. Mrs. Marin may be sick.

This use of *pouvoir* suggests possibility.

Je n'en peux plus. / I can't go on any longer.

This use suggests physical exhaustion.

Il se peut. / It is possible.

This use as a reflexive verb suggests possibility.

Cela ne se peut pas. / That can't be done.

This use as a reflexive verb suggests impossibility.

- Conditional

Pourriez-vous me prêter dix francs? / Could you lend me ten francs?

- Conditional perfect

Auriez-vous pu venir chez moi? / Could you have come to my place?

Ils auraient pu rater le train. / They might have missed the train.

VOULOIR / TO WANT

- Present

Je veux aller en France. / I want to go to France.

Je veux bien sortir avec vous ce soir. / I am willing to go out with you this evening.

92 The Parts of Speech

Voulez-vous bien vous asseoir? / Would you be good enough to sit down?

Que veut dire ce mot? / What does this word mean?

Que voulez-vous dire? / What do you mean?

Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire? / What does that mean?

- Conditional

Je voudrais un café crème, s'il vous plaît. / I would like coffee with cream, please.

- Imperative

Veuillez vous asseoir. / Kindly sit down.

Veuillez accepter mes meilleurs sentiments. / Please accept my best regards.

SAVOIR / TO KNOW (a fact)

- Present

Je sais la réponse. / I know the answer.

Je sais lire en français. / I know how to read in French.

- Conditional

Sauriez-vous où est le docteur? / Would you know where the doctor is?

Je ne saurais penser à tout! / I can't think of everything!

- Imperative

Sachons-le bien! / Let's be well aware of it!

Sachez que votre père vient de mourir. / Be informed that your father has just died.

SAVOIR AND CONNAÎTRE

The main difference between the meaning of these two verbs in the sense of "to know" is that *connaître* means merely to be acquainted with; for example, to be acquainted

with a person, a city, a neighborhood, a country, the title of a book, the works of an author.

Savez-vous la réponse? / Do you know the answer?

Savez-vous quelle heure il est? / Do you know what time it is?

Connaissez-vous cette dame? / Do you know this lady?

Connaissez-vous Paris? / Do you know Paris?

Connaissez-vous ce livre? / Do you know this book?

ENTENDRE AND COMPRENDRE

The main difference between the meaning of these two verbs is that *entendre* means "to hear" and *comprendre* "to understand." Sometimes *entendre* can mean "to understand" or "to mean."

Entendez-vous la musique? / Do you hear the music?

Comprenez-vous la leçon? / Do you understand the lesson?

"M'entends-tu?!" dit la mère à l'enfant. "Ne fais pas cela!" /

"Do you understand me?!" says the mother to the child.

"Don't do that!"

Je ne comprehends pas le docteur Fu Manchu parce qu'il ne parle que chinois. / I do not understand Dr. Fu Manchu because he speaks only Chinese.

Qu'entendez-vous par là? / What do you mean by that? What are you insinuating by that remark?

Je vous entends, mais je ne vous comprehends pas; expliquez-vous, s'il vous plaît. / I hear you, but I don't understand you; explain yourself, please.

QUITTER, PARTIR, SORTIR, AND LAISSER

These four verbs all mean "to leave," but note the differences in their uses:

- Use *quitter* when you state a direct object noun or pronoun that could be a person or a place.

J'ai quitté mes amis devant le théâtre. / I left my friends in front of the theater.

94 The Parts of Speech

J'ai quitté la maison à six heures du matin. / I left the house at six in the morning.

- Use *partir* when there is no direct object noun or pronoun.

Elle est partie tout de suite. / She left immediately.

However, if you use the preposition *de* after *partir*, you may add a direct object, but it would be object of the preposition *de*, not of the verb *partir*.

Elle est partie de la maison à six heures du matin. / She left (from) the house at six in the morning.

- Use *sortir*, in the sense of “to go out.” With no direct object:

Elle est sortie il y a une heure. / She went out an hour ago.

However, if you use the preposition *de* after *sortir*, you may add a direct object, but it would be object of the preposition *de*, not of the verb *sortir*.

Elle est sortie de la maison il y a une heure. / She left (went out of) the house an hour ago.

Note that *sortir* can also be conjugated with *avoir* to form a compound tense, but then the meaning changes because it can take a direct object.

Elle a sorti son mouchoir pour se moucher. / She took out her handkerchief to wipe her nose.

Elle a sorti son mouchoir pour moucher son enfant. / She took out her handkerchief to wipe her child's nose.

- Use *laisser* when you leave behind something that is not stationary; in other words, something movable, for example, books and articles of clothing.

J'ai laissé mes livres sur la table dans la cuisine. / I left my books on the table in the kitchen.

J'ai laissé mon imperméable à la maison. / I left my raincoat at home.

Note that *laisser* also has the meaning "to let, allow a person to do something":

J'ai laissé mon ami partir. / I let (allowed) my friend to leave.

Mnemonic tip *Partir* / to leave, go away contains an a and so does "away." *Sortir* / to go out contains an o and so does "out."

FALLOIR

Falloir is an impersonal verb, which means that it is used only in the third person singular (*il* form) in all the tenses; its primary meaning is "to be necessary."

Il faut étudier pour avoir de bonnes notes. / It is necessary to study in order to have good grades.

Faut-il le faire tout de suite? / Is it necessary to do it at once?

Oui, il le faut. / Yes, it is (understood: necessary to do it).

The use of the neuter direct object *le* is needed to show emphasis and to complete the thought.

Il faut être honnête. / It is necessary to be honest.

In the negative:

Il ne faut pas être malhonnête. / One must not be dishonest.

Note that *il faut* in the negative means "one must not."

Il ne faut pas fumer à l'école. / One must not smoke in school.

§7.12 OTHER VERBS WITH SPECIAL MEANINGS

arriver / to happen *Qu'est-ce qui est arrivé?* / What happened?

avoir / to have something the matter *Qu'est-ce que vous avez?* / What's the matter with you?

96 The Parts of Speech

entendre dire que / to hear it said that, hear that J'entends dire que Robert s'est marié. / I hear that Robert got married.

entendre parler de / to hear of, about J'ai entendu parler d'un grand changement dans l'administration. / I've heard about a big change in the administration.

envoyer chercher / to send for Je vais envoyer chercher le médecin. / I'm going to send for the doctor.

être à quelqu'un / to belong to someone Ce livre est à moi. / This book belongs to me.

faillir + infinitive / to almost do something Le bébé a failli tomber. / The baby almost fell.

mettre / to put on Gisèle a mis sa plus jolie robe. / Gisèle put on her prettiest dress.

mettre la table / to set the table

profiter de / to take advantage of

rendre visite à / to pay a visit to

venir à / to happen to Si nous venons à nous rencontrer, nous pourrons prendre une tasse de café. / If we happen to meet each other, we can have a cup of coffee.

venir de + infinitive / to have just done something Joseph vient de partir. / Joseph has just left; Barbara venait de partir quand Françoise est arrivée. / Barbara had just left when Françoise arrived.

§7.13 INFINITIVES

- In English, an *infinitive* contains the preposition “to” in front of it: “to give,” “to finish,” “to sell.” In French an infinitive has a certain ending. There are three major types of infinitives in French: those that end in *-er* (*donner*); those that end in *-ir* (*finir*); and those that end in *-re* (*vendre*).
- Make an infinitive negative in French by placing *ne pas* in front of it.

Je vous dis de ne pas sortir. / I am telling you not to go out.

The infinitive is often used after a verb of perception to express an action that is in progress.

J'entends quelqu'un chanter. / I hear somebody singing.

Je vois venir les enfants. / I see the children coming.

Some common verbs of perception are: *apercevoir* / to perceive, *écouter* / to listen to, *entendre* / to hear, *regarder* / to look at, *sentir* / to feel, *voir* / to see.

There are certain French verbs that take either the preposition *à* or *de* + infinitive.

Il commence à pleuvoir. / It is beginning to rain.

Il a cessé de pleuvoir. / It has stopped raining.

Avant *de* and *sans* + infinitive

Sylvie a mangé avant de sortir. / Sylvia ate before going out.

André est parti sans dire un mot. / Andrew left without saying a word.

Use of infinitive instead of a verb form

Generally speaking, an infinitive is used instead of a verb form if the subject in a sentence is the same for the actions expressed.

Je veux faire le travail. / I want to do the work.

BUT if there are two different subjects, you must use a new clause and a new verb form.

Je veux que vous fassiez le travail. / I want you to do the work.

Je préfère me coucher tôt. / I prefer to go to bed early.

BUT

Je préfère que vous vous couchiez tôt. / I prefer that you go to bed early.

98 The Parts of Speech

- Past infinitive

In French the past infinitive is expressed by using the infinitive form of *avoir* or *être* + the past participle of the main verb being used.

Après avoir quitté la maison, Monsieur et Madame Dubé sont allés au cinéma. / After leaving the house, Mr. and Mrs. Dubé went to the movies.

Après être arrivée, Jeanne a téléphoné à sa mère. / After arriving, Jeanne telephoned her mother.

§7.14 CAUSATIVE (CAUSAL) FAIRE

The construction *faire* + infinitive means to have something done by someone. The causative *faire* can be in any tense, but it must be followed by an infinitive.

Examples with nouns and pronouns as direct and indirect objects:

Madame Smith fait travailler ses élèves dans la classe de français. / Mrs. Smith makes her students work in French class

In this example, the direct object is the noun *élèves* and it is placed right after the infinitive.

*Madame Smith les fait travailler dans la classe de français.
Mrs. Smith makes them work (has them work) in French class*

In this example, the direct object is the pronoun *les*, referring to *les élèves*. It is placed in front of the verb form of *faire*, where it logically belongs.

Madame Smith fait ... la phrase. / Mrs. Smith is having the sentence read. OR Mrs. Smith has the sentence read.

In this example, the direct object is the noun *phrase* and it is placed right after the infinitive, as in the first example.

Madame Smith la fait lire. / Mrs. Smith is having it read.

In this example, the direct object is the pronoun *la*, referring to *la phrase*. It is placed in front of the verb form of *faire*, where it logically belongs. This is like the second example, but here the direct object is a thing. In the other two examples, the direct object is a person.

§7.15 SUBJUNCTIVE

The subjunctive is not a tense, but a *mood*, or mode. Usually when we speak in French or English, we use the indicative mood, but the subjunctive mood in French must be used in specific cases. They are:

After Certain Conjunctions

When the following conjunctions introduce a new clause, the verb in that new clause is usually in the subjunctive mood.

à condition que / on condition that
à moins que / unless
afin que / in order that, so that
attendre que / to wait until
au cas que; en cas que / in case
bien que / although
de crainte que / for fear that
de peur que / for fear that
de sorte que / so that
en attendant que / until
jusqu'à ce que / until
malgré que / although
pour que / in order that
pourvu que / provided that
quoique / although

100 The Parts of Speech

Je vous explique pour que vous compreniez. / I am explaining to you so that you will understand.

Attendez que je finisse mon dîner. / Wait until I finish my dinner.
Au cas que nous soyons d'accord . . . / In case we are in agreement . . .

En cas qu'il vienne, soyez prêts. / In case he comes, be ready.

After Indefinite Expressions

où que / wherever
quel que / whatever
qui que / whoever
quoi que / whatever, no matter what

After an Indefinite Antecedent

The subjunctive is needed after an indefinite antecedent because the person or thing desired may possibly not exist; or, if it does exist, you may never find it.

Je cherche une personne qui soit honnête. / I am looking for a person who is honest.

Je cherche un appartement qui ne soit pas trop cher. / I am looking for an apartment that is not too expensive.

Connaissez-vous quelqu'un qui puisse réparer mon téléviseur une fois pour toutes? / Do you know someone who can repair my TV set once and for all?

Y a-t-il un élève qui comprenne le subjonctif? / Is there a student who understands the subjunctive?

After a Superlative Expressing an Opinion

The most common superlatives expressing an opinion are: *le seul (la seule)* / the only, *le premier (la première)* / the first, *le dernier (la dernière)* / the last, *le plus petit (la plus petite)* / the smallest, *le plus grand (la plus grande)* / the biggest

A mon avis, Marie est la seule étudiante qui comprenne le subjonctif. / In my opinion, Mary is the only student who understands the subjunctive.

Selon mon opinion, Henriette est l'élève la plus jolie que j'aie jamais vue. / According to my opinion, Henrietta is the prettiest pupil I have ever seen.

After *que*, Meaning “Let” or “May”

The subjunctive is required after *que* to express a wish, an order, or a command in the third person singular or plural.

Qu'il parte! / Let him leave!

Que Dieu nous pardonne! / May God forgive us!

Qu'ils s'en aillent! / Let them go away!

After Certain Impersonal Expressions

c'est dommage que / it's a pity that

il est bizarre que / it is odd that

il est bon que / it is good that

il est douteux que / it is doubtful that

il est essentiel que / it is essential that

il est étonnant que / it is astonishing that

il est étrange que / it is strange that

il est heureux que / it is fortunate that

il est honteux que / it is a shame that

il est important que / it is important that

il est impossible que / it is impossible that

il est nécessaire que / it is necessary that

il est possible que / it is possible that

il est regrettable que / it is regrettable that

il est temps que / it is time that

il est urgent que / it is urgent that

il faut que / it is necessary that

il se peut que / it may be that

il semble que / it seems that

il vaut mieux que / it is better that

After Certain Verbs Expressing Doubt, Emotion, or Wishing

aimer que / to like that
aimer mieux que / to prefer that
s'attendre à ce que / to expect that
avoir peur que / to be afraid that
craindre que / to fear that
défendre que / to forbid that
désirer que / to desire that
douter que / to doubt that
empêcher que / to prevent that
s'étonner que / to be astonished that
être bien aise que / to be pleased that
être content que / to be glad that
être désolé que / to be distressed that
être étonné que / to be astonished that
être heureux que / to be happy that
être joyeux que / to be joyful that
être ravi que / to be delighted that
être triste que / to be sad that
exiger que / to demand that
se fâcher que / to be angry that
insister que / to insist that
ordonner que / to order that
préférer que / to prefer that
regretter que / to regret that
souhaiter que / to wish that
tenir à ce que / to insist upon
vouloir que / to want

EXAMPLES

- J'aimerais que vous restiez ici. / I would like you to stay here.*
J'aime mieux que vous restiez ici. / I prefer that you stay here.
Nous nous attendons à ce qu'elle vienne immédiatement. / We expect her to come immediately.
Ta mère est contente que tu sois heureux. / Your mother is glad that you are happy.

After Verbs of Believing and Thinking

Such verbs are *croire*, *penser*, *trouver* (meaning "to think, to have an impression"), and *espérer* when used in the negative or interrogative.

Je ne pense pas qu'il soit coupable. / I don't think that he is guilty.
Croyez-vous qu'il dise la vérité? / Do you believe he is telling the truth?

Trouvez-vous qu'il y ait beaucoup de crimes dans la société d'aujourd'hui? / Do you find (think) that there are many crimes in today's society?

§7.16 SUMMARY OF TENSES AND MOODS

The 7 simple tenses	The 7 compound tenses
Present indicative	Past indefinite (<i>passé composé</i>)
Imperfect indicative	Pluperfect indicative
Past definite	Past anterior
Future	Future perfect
Conditional present	Conditional perfect
Present subjunctive	Past subjunctive
Imperfect subjunctive	Pluperfect subjunctive Imperative or Command

§7.17 SPELLING IRREGULARITIES OF SOME COMMON VERBS

The verbs conjugated here all undergo certain spelling changes in the tenses indicated.*

The subject pronouns have been omitted in order to

*For additional verb conjugations, see *French Verbs* by Christopher Kendris, ©1990 by Barron's Educational Series, Inc.

eliminate repetition and to emphasize the verb forms. They are:

	Singular	Plural
1st	<i>je (j')</i>	<i>nous</i>
2d	<i>tu</i>	<i>vous</i>
3d	<i>il, elle, on</i>	<i>ils, elles</i>

PRESENT INDICATIVE

acheter / to buy

<i>achète</i>	<i>achetons</i>
<i>achètes</i>	<i>achetez</i>
<i>achète</i>	<i>achètent</i>

Mnemonic tip This is a "boot" verb.
Note the outline of
a boot that contains
the need for è.

s'appeler / to be named

<i>m'appelle</i>	<i>nous appelons</i>
<i>t'appelles</i>	<i>vous appelez</i>
<i>s'appelle</i>	<i>s'appellent</i>

Mnemonic tip This is another
"boot" verb type.

apprendre / to learn

<i>apprends</i>	<i>apprenons</i>
<i>apprends</i>	<i>apprenez</i>
<i>apprend</i>	<i>apprennent</i>

boire / to drink

<u>bois</u>	<u>buvons</u>
<u>bois</u>	<u>buvez</u>
<u>boit</u>	<u>boivent</u>

Mnemonic tip This too is a "boot" verb. Note the "s, s, t" pattern in the singular.

commencer / to begin, start

<i>commence</i>	<u>commençons</u>
<i>commences</i>	<u>commencez</u>
<i>commence</i>	<u>commencent</u>

comprendre / to understand (like *prendre*; add *com* at the beginning of *prendre*)

conduire / to drive; to lead

<i>conduis</i>	<u>conduisons</u>
<i>conduis</i>	<u>conduisez</u>
<i>conduit</i>	<u>conduisent</u>

connaître / to know, to be acquainted with

<i>connais</i>	<u>connaissons</u>
<i>connais</i>	<u>connaissez</u>
<i>connaît</i>	<u>connaisSENT</u>

courir / to run

<i>cours</i>	<u>courons</u>
<i>cours</i>	<u>courez</u>
<i>court</i>	<u>courent</u>

croire / to believe

<u><i>crois</i></u>	<i>croyons</i>
<u><i>crois</i></u>	<i>croyez</i>
<u><i>croit</i></u>	<i>croient</i>

devenir / to become

<u><i>deviens</i></u>	<i>devenons</i>
<u><i>deviens</i></u>	<i>devenez</i>
<u><i>devient</i></u>	<i>deviennent</i>

devoir / to owe; to have to

<u><i>dois</i></u>	<i>devons</i>
<u><i>dois</i></u>	<i>devez</i>
<u><i>doit</i></u>	<i>doivent</i>

dire / to say; to tell

<i>dis</i>	<i>disons</i>
<i>dis</i>	<i>dites</i>
<i>dit</i>	<i>disent</i>

dormir / to sleep

<i>dors</i>	<i>dormons</i>
<i>dors</i>	<i>dormez</i>
<i>dort</i>	<i>dorment</i>

écrire / to write

<i>écris</i>	<i>écrivons</i>
<i>écris</i>	<i>écrivez</i>
<i>écrit</i>	<i>écrivent</i>

envoyer / to send

<u><i>envoie</i></u>	<i>envoyons</i>
<u><i>envoies</i></u>	<i>envoyez</i>
<u><i>envoie</i></u>	<i>envoient</i>

espérer / to hope

<i>espèr<u>e</u></i>	<i>espérons</i>
<i>espèr<u>es</u></i>	<i>espérez</i>
<i>espèr<u>e</u></i>	<i>espèrent</i>

falloir / to be necessary

il faut

se lever / to get up

<i>me lèv<u>e</u></i>	<i>nous levons</i>
<i>te lèv<u>es</u></i>	<i>vous levez</i>
<i>se lèv<u>e</u></i>	<i>se lèvent</i>

lire / to read

<i>lis</i>	<i>lisons</i>
<i>lis</i>	<i>lisez</i>
<i>lit</i>	<i>lisent</i>

manger / to eat

<i>mange</i>	<i>mangeons</i>
<i>manges</i>	<i>mangez</i>
<i>mange</i>	<i>mangent</i>

mettre / to place, put; to put on

<i>mets</i>	<i>mettons</i>
<i>mets</i>	<i>mettez</i>
<i>met</i>	<i>mettent</i>

mourir / to die

<i>meurs<u>s</u></i>	<i>mourons</i>
<i>meurs<u>s</u></i>	<i>mourez</i>
<i>meurt<u>_</u></i>	<i>meurent<u>_</u></i>

nager / to swim

nage *nageons*
nages *nagez*
nage *nagent*

naître / to be born

nais *naissons*
nais *naissez*
naît *naissent*

offrir / to offer

offre *offrons*
offres *offrez*
offre *offrent*

ouvrir / to open

ouvre *ouvrons*
ouvres *ouvrez*
ouvre *ouvrent*

partir / to leave

pars *partons*
pars *partez*
part *partent*

pleuvoir / to rain

il pleut

pouvoir / to be able, can

<i>peux OR puis</i>	<i>pouvons</i>
<i>peux</i>	<i>pouvez</i>
<i>peut</i>	<i>peuvent</i>

préférer / to prefer

<i>préfèr_e</i>	<i>préfér_ons</i>
<i>préfèr_es</i>	<i>préfér_ez</i>
<i>préfèr_e</i>	<i>préfèr_ent</i>

prendre / to take

<i>prends</i>	<i>prenons</i>
<i>prends</i>	<i>prenez</i>
<i>prend</i>	<i>prennent</i>

protéger / to protect

<i>protèg_e</i>	<i>protégeons</i>
<i>protèg_es</i>	<i>protégez</i>
<i>protèg_e</i>	<i>protègent</i>

recevoir / to receive

<i>reçois_</i>	<i>recevons</i>
<i>reçois_</i>	<i>recevez</i>
<i>reçoit_</i>	<i>reçoivent</i>

revenir / to return, come back (like *venir*; add *re-* at the beginning of *venir*)

rire / to laugh

<i>ris</i>	<i>rions</i>
<i>ris</i>	<i>riez</i>
<i>rit</i>	<i>rient</i>

savoir / to know (a fact)

<i>sais</i>	<i>savons</i>
<i>sais</i>	<i>savez</i>
<i>sait</i>	<i>savent</i>

servir / to serve

sers	servons
sers	servez
sert	servent

sortir / to go out; to leave

sors	sortons
sors	sortez
sort	sortent

tenir / to hold

<u>tiens</u>	tenons
<u>tiens</u>	tenez
<u>tient</u>	tiennent

venir / to come

<u>viens</u>	venons
<u>viens</u>	venez
<u>vient</u>	viennent

vivre / to live

vis	vivons
vis	vivez
vit	vivent

voir / to see

<u>vois</u>	voyons
<u>vois</u>	voyez
<u>voit</u>	voient

vouloir / to want

<u>veux</u>	<i>voulons</i>
<u>veux</u>	<i>voulez</i>
<u>veut</u>	<i>veulent</i>

voyager / to travel

<i>voyage</i>	<i>voyageons</i>
<i>voyages</i>	<i>voyagez</i>
<i>voyage</i>	<i>voyagent</i>

IMPERFECT INDICATIVE

apprendre / to learn

<i>apprenais</i>	<i>apprenions</i>
<i>apprenais</i>	<i>appreniez</i>
<i>apprenait</i>	<i>apprenaient</i>

boire / to drink

<i>buvais</i>	<i>buvions</i>
<i>buvais</i>	<i>buviez</i>
<i>buvait</i>	<i>buvaient</i>

commencer / to begin, to start

<u>commençais</u>	<i>commencions</i>
<u>commençais</u>	<i>commenciez</i>
<u>commençait</u>	<i>commençaient</i>

comprendre / to understand (like *prendre*; add *com* at the beginning of *prendre*)

conduire / to drive; to lead

conduisais *conduisions*

conduisais *conduisiez*

conduisait *conduisaient*

connaître / to know, be acquainted
with

connaissais *connaissions*

connaissais *connaissiez*

connaissait *connaissaient*

courir / to run

courais *courions*

courais *couriez*

courait *couraient*

croire / to believe

croyais *croyions*

croyais *croyiez*

croyait *croyaient*

devenir / to become

devenais *devenions*

devenais *deveniez*

devenait *devenaient*

devoir / to owe; to have to

devais *devions*

devais *deviez*

devait *devaient*

dire / to say; to tell

disais *disions*

disais *disiez*

disait *disaient*

dormir / to sleep

<i>dormais</i>	<i>dormions</i>
<i>dormais</i>	<i>dormiez</i>
<i>dormais</i>	<i>dormaient</i>

écrire / to write

<i>écrivais</i>	<i>écrivions</i>
<i>écrivais</i>	<i>écriviez</i>
<i>écrivait</i>	<i>écrivaient</i>

falloir / to be necessary

il fallait

lire / to read

<i>lisais</i>	<i>lisions</i>
<i>lisais</i>	<i>lisiez</i>
<i>lisait</i>	<i>lisaient</i>

manger / to eat

<i>mangeais</i>	<i>mangions</i>
<i>mangeais</i>	<i>mangiez</i>
<i>mangeait</i>	<i>mangeaient</i>

mourir / to die

<i>mourais</i>	<i>mourions</i>
<i>mourais</i>	<i>mouriez</i>
<i>mourait</i>	<i>mouraient</i>

nager / to swim

<i>nageais</i>	<i>nagions</i>
<i>nageais</i>	<i>nagiez</i>
<i>nageait</i>	<i>nageaient</i>

naître / to be born

naissais naissions

naissais naissiez

naissait naissaient

offrir / to offer

offrais offrions

offrais offriez

offrait offraient

ouvrir / to open

ouvrais ouvrions

ouvrais ouvriez

ouvrait ouvraient

partir / to leave

partais partions

partais partiez

partait partaient

pleuvoir / to rain

il pleuvait

prendre / to take

prenais prenions

prenais preniez

prenait prenaient

protéger / to protect

protégeais protégions

protégeais protégiez

protégeait protégeaient

revenir / to return, to come back
(like *venir*; add *re* at the beginning of
venir)

rire / to laugh

riais rions

riais riiez

riaît riaient

savoir / to know (a fact)

savais savions

savais saviez

savait savaient

servir / to serve

servais servions

servais serviez

servait servaient

sortir / to go out; to leave

sortais sortions

sortais sortiez

sortait sortaient

tenir / to hold

tenais tenions

tenais teniez

tenait tenaient

venir / to come

venais venions

venais veniez

venait venaient

vivre / to live

<i>vivais</i>	<i>vivions</i>
<i>vivais</i>	<i>viviez</i>
<i>vivait</i>	<i>vivaient</i>

voir / to see

<i>voyais</i>	<i>voyions</i>
<i>voyais</i>	<i>voyiez</i>
<i>voyait</i>	<i>voyaient</i>

vouloir / to want

<i>voulais</i>	<i>voulions</i>
<i>voulais</i>	<i>vouliez</i>
<i>voulait</i>	<i>voulaient</i>

voyer / to travel

<i>voyageais</i>	<i>voyagions</i>
<i>voyageais</i>	<i>voyagiez</i>
<i>voyageait</i>	<i>voyageaient</i>

§7.18 BASIC NEGATIONS OF VERBS

The common negations of verbs are *ne* + verb + any of the following:

aucun, aucune / no, not one, not any

Je n'ai aucun livre. / I have no book.

Robert n'a aucune amie. / Robert has no girlfriend.

guère / hardly, scarcely

Paul ne parle guère. / Paul hardly (scarcely) talks.

jamais / never

Jean n'étudie jamais. / John never studies.

ni . . . ni / neither . . . nor

Je n'ai ni argent ni billet. / I have neither money nor tickets.

nul, nulle / no, not any

Je n'en ai nul besoin. / I have no need of it.

Je ne vais nulle part. / I'm not going anywhere.

pas / not

Je n'ai pas de papier. / I haven't any paper.

pas du tout / not at all

Je ne comprends pas du tout. / I do not understand at all.

personne / nobody, no one, not anybody

Je ne vois personne. / I don't see anybody. I see no one.

plus / any longer, no more, not any more

Mon père ne travaille plus. / My father doesn't work any more.

point / not at all

Cet enfant n'a point d'argent. / This child has no money at all.

que / only, but only

Je n'ai que deux francs. / I have (but) only two francs.

rien / nothing

Je n'ai rien sur moi. / I have nothing on me.

Note that all these negations require *ne* in front of the main verb. Also note that *aucun, aucune, nul, nulle, personne, rien* can be used as subjects and you still need to use *ne* in front of the verb.

Personne n'entend le bruit. / Nobody hears the noise.

Rien n'est jamais parfait. / Nothing is ever perfect.

Une devinette / a riddle

J'ai des yeux mais je n'ai pas de paupières et je vis dans l'eau. Qui suis-je? / I have eyes but I don't have eyelids and I live in the water. Who am I?

un poisson

§7.19 FOUR CONJUGATED VERBS

The following irregular verbs — *aller, avoir, être, and faire* — have been fully conjugated in all their tenses because they are so frequently used.

*aller / to go*Present participle: *allant* Past participle: *allé(e)(s)*

The Seven Simple Tenses		The Seven Compound Tenses	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Present indicative		Past indefinite	
<i>vais</i>	<i>allons</i>	<i>suis allé(e)</i>	<i>sommes allé(e)s</i>
<i>vas</i>	<i>allez</i>	<i>es allé(e)</i>	<i>êtes allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>va</i>	<i>vont</i>	<i>est allé(e)</i>	<i>sont allé(e)s</i>
Imperfect indicative		Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative	
<i>allais</i>	<i>allions</i>	<i>étais allé(e)</i>	<i>étions allé(e)s</i>
<i>allais</i>	<i>alliez</i>	<i>étais allé(e)</i>	<i>étiez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>allait</i>	<i>allaient</i>	<i>était allé(e)</i>	<i>étaient allé(e)s</i>
Past definite		Past anterior	
<i>allai</i>	<i>allâmes</i>	<i>fus allé(e)</i>	<i>fûmes allé(e)s</i>
<i>allas</i>	<i>allâtes</i>	<i>fus allé(e)</i>	<i>fûtes allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>alla</i>	<i>allèrent</i>	<i>fut allé(e)</i>	<i>furent allé(e)s</i>
Future		Future perfect OR Future anterior	
<i>irai</i>	<i>irons</i>	<i>serai allé(e)</i>	<i>serons allé(e)s</i>
<i>iras</i>	<i>irez</i>	<i>seras allé(e)</i>	<i>serez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>ira</i>	<i>iront</i>	<i>sera allé(e)</i>	<i>seront allé(e)s</i>
Conditional		Conditional perfect	
<i>irais</i>	<i>irions</i>	<i>serais allé(e)</i>	<i>serions allé(e)s</i>
<i>irais</i>	<i>iriez</i>	<i>serais allé(e)</i>	<i>seriez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>irait</i>	<i>iraient</i>	<i>serait allé(e)</i>	<i>seraient allé(e)s</i>
Present subjunctive		Past subjunctive	
<i>aille</i>	<i>allions</i>	<i>sois allé(e)</i>	<i>soyons allé(e)s</i>
<i>ailles</i>	<i>alliez</i>	<i>sois allé(e)</i>	<i>soyez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>aille</i>	<i>aillent</i>	<i>soit allé(e)</i>	<i>soient allé(e)s</i>
Imperfect subjunctive		Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive	
<i>allasse</i>	<i>allussions</i>	<i>fusse allé(e)</i>	<i>fussions allé(e)s</i>
<i>allasses</i>	<i>allassiez</i>	<i>fusses allé(e)</i>	<i>fussiez allé(e)(s)</i>
<i>allât</i>	<i>allassent</i>	<i>fût allé(e)</i>	<i>fussent allé(e)s</i>
Imperative OR Command			
		<i>va</i>	
		<i>allons</i>	
		<i>allez</i>	

avoir / to have

Present participle: *ayant* Past participle: *eu***The Seven Simple Tenses** | **The Seven Compound Tenses**

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Present indicative		Past indefinite	
<i>ai</i>	<i>avons</i>	<i>ai eu</i>	<i>avons eu</i>
<i>as</i>	<i>avez</i>	<i>as eu</i>	<i>avez eu</i>
<i>a</i>	<i>ont</i>	<i>a eu</i>	<i>ont eu</i>
Imperfect indicative		Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative	
<i>avais</i>	<i>avions</i>	<i>avais eu</i>	<i>avions eu</i>
<i>avais</i>	<i>aviez</i>	<i>avais eu</i>	<i>aviez eu</i>
<i>avait</i>	<i>avaient</i>	<i>avait eu</i>	<i>avaient eu</i>
Past definite		Past anterior	
<i>eus</i>	<i>eûmes</i>	<i>eus eu</i>	<i>eûmes eu</i>
<i>eus</i>	<i>eûtes</i>	<i>eus eu</i>	<i>eûtes eu</i>
<i>eut</i>	<i>eurent</i>	<i>eut eu</i>	<i>eurent eu</i>
Future		Future perfect OR Future anterior	
<i>aurai</i>	<i>aurons</i>	<i>aurai eu</i>	<i>aurons eu</i>
<i>auras</i>	<i>aurez</i>	<i>auras eu</i>	<i>aurez eu</i>
<i>aura</i>	<i>auront</i>	<i>aura eu</i>	<i>auront eu</i>
Conditional		Conditional perfect	
<i>aurais</i>	<i>aurions</i>	<i>aurais eu</i>	<i>aurions eu</i>
<i>aurais</i>	<i>auriez</i>	<i>aurais eu</i>	<i>auriez eu</i>
<i>aurait</i>	<i>auraient</i>	<i>aurait eu</i>	<i>auraient eu</i>
Present subjunctive		Past subjunctive	
<i>aie</i>	<i>ayons</i>	<i>aie eu</i>	<i>ayons eu</i>
<i>aies</i>	<i>ayez</i>	<i>aies eu</i>	<i>ayez eu</i>
<i>ait</i>	<i>aient</i>	<i>ait eu</i>	<i>aient eu</i>
Imperfect subjunctive		Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive	
<i>eusse</i>	<i>eussions</i>	<i>eusse eu</i>	<i>eussions eu</i>
<i>eusses</i>	<i>eussiez</i>	<i>eusses eu</i>	<i>eussiez eu</i>
<i>eût</i>	<i>eussent</i>	<i>eût eu</i>	<i>eussent eu</i>
Imperative OR Command			
<i>aie</i>			
<i>ayons</i>			
<i>ayez</i>			

*être / to be*Present participle: *étant* Past participle: *été***The Seven Simple Tenses | The Seven Compound Tenses**

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
	Present indicative		Past indefinite
suis	sommes	ai été	avons été
es	êtes	as été	avez été
est	sont	a été	ont été
	Imperfect indicative		Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative
étais	étions	avais été	avions été
étais	étiez	avais été	aviez été
était	étaient	avait été	avaient été
	Past definite		Past anterior
fus	fûmes	eus été	eûmes été
fus	fûtes	eus été	eûtes été
fut	furent	eut été	eurent été
	Future		Future perfect OR Future anterior
serai	serons	aurai été	aurons été
seras	serez	auras été	aurez été
sera	seront	aura été	auront été
	Conditional		Conditional perfect
serais	serions	aurais été	aurions été
serais	seriez	aurais été	auriez été
serait	seraient	aurait été	auraient été
	Present subjunctive		Past subjunctive
sois	soyons	aie été	ayons été
sois	soyez	aies été	ayez été
soit	soient	ait été	aient été
	Imperfect subjunctive		Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive
fusse	fussions	eusse été	eussions été
fusses	fussiez	eusses été	eussiez été
fût	fussent	eût été	eussent été
	Imperative OR Command		
	sois		
	soyons		
	soyez		

*faire / to do, to make*Present participle: *faisant* Past participle: *fait*

The Seven Simple Tenses		The Seven Compound Tenses	
Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
Present indicative		Past indefinite	
<i>fais</i>	<i>faisons</i>	<i>ai fait</i>	<i>avons fait</i>
<i>fais</i>	<i>faites</i>	<i>as fait</i>	<i>avez fait</i>
<i>fait</i>	<i>font</i>	<i>a fait</i>	<i>ont fait</i>
Imperfect indicative		Pluperfect OR Past perfect indicative	
<i>faisais</i>	<i>faisions</i>	<i>avais fait</i>	<i>avions fait</i>
<i>faisais</i>	<i>faisiez</i>	<i>avais fait</i>	<i>aviez fait</i>
<i>faisait</i>	<i>faisaient</i>	<i>avait fait</i>	<i>avaient fait</i>
Past definite		Past anterior	
<i> fis</i>	<i>fîmes</i>	<i>eus fait</i>	<i>eûmes fait</i>
<i> fis</i>	<i>fîtes</i>	<i>eus fait</i>	<i>eûtes fait</i>
<i> fit</i>	<i>firent</i>	<i>eut fait</i>	<i>eurent fait</i>
Future		Future perfect OR Future anterior	
<i>ferai</i>	<i>ferons</i>	<i>aurai fait</i>	<i>aurons fait</i>
<i>feras</i>	<i>ferez</i>	<i>auras fait</i>	<i>aurez fait</i>
<i>fera</i>	<i>feront</i>	<i>aura fait</i>	<i>auront fait</i>
Conditional		Conditional perfect	
<i>ferais</i>	<i>ferions</i>	<i>aurais fait</i>	<i>aurions fait</i>
<i>ferais</i>	<i>feriez</i>	<i>aurais fait</i>	<i>auriez fait</i>
<i>ferait</i>	<i>feraient</i>	<i>aurait fait</i>	<i>auraient fait</i>
Present subjunctive		Past subjunctive	
<i>fasse</i>	<i>fassions</i>	<i>aie fait</i>	<i>ayons fait</i>
<i>fasses</i>	<i>fassiez</i>	<i>aies fait</i>	<i>ayez fait</i>
<i>fasse</i>	<i>fassent</i>	<i>ait fait</i>	<i>aien fait</i>
Imperfect subjunctive		Pluperfect OR Past perfect subjunctive	
<i>fisse</i>	<i>fissions</i>	<i>eusse fait</i>	<i>eussions fait</i>
<i>fisses</i>	<i>fissiez</i>	<i>eusses fait</i>	<i>eussiez fait</i>
<i>fît</i>	<i>fissent</i>	<i>eût fait</i>	<i>eussent fait</i>
Imperative OR Command			
		<i>fais</i>	
		<i>faisons</i>	
		<i>faites</i>	

Adverbs

DEFINITION

An **adverb** is a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

§8.1 FORMATION

Many French adverbs are not formed from another word, for example: *bien, mal, vite, combien, comment, pourquoi, où*.

There are many other adverbs that are formed from another word. The usual way is to add the suffix *-ment* to the masculine singular form of an adjective whose last letter is a vowel; for example: *probable, probablement; poli, poliment; vrai, vraiment*.

The suffix *-ment* is added to the feminine singular form if the masculine singular ends in a consonant; for example: *affreux, affreuse, affreusement; seul, seule, seulement; amer, amère, amèrement; franc, franche, franchement*.

The ending *-ment* is equivalent to the English ending “*-ly*”: *lent, lente, lentement / slow, slowly*.

Some adjectives that end in *-ant* or *-ent* become adverbs by changing *-ant* to *-amment* and *-ent* to *-emment*: *innocent, innocemment; constant, constamment; récent, récemment*.

Some adverbs take *é* instead of *e* before adding *-ment*: *profond, profondément; confus, confusément; précis, précisément*.

The adjective *gentil* becomes *gentiment* as an adverb and *bref* becomes *brièvement*.

§8.2 POSITION

1. *David aime beaucoup les chocolats.*
2. *Paulette a parlé distinctement.*
3. *Julie a bien parlé.*

- In French, an adverb ordinarily follows the simple verb it modifies, as in the first model sentence above.
- If a verb is compound, as in the *past indefinite* (sentence 2), the adverb generally follows the past participle if it is a long adverb. The adverb *distinctement* is long. Some exceptions: *certainement*, *complètement*, and *probablement* are usually placed between the helping verb and the past participle:
Elle est probablement partie. Il a complètement fini le travail.
- If a verb is compound, as in the *past indefinite* (sentence 3), short common adverbs (like *beaucoup*, *bien*, *déjà*, *encore*, *mal*, *mieux*, *souvent*, *toujours*) ordinarily precede the past participle; in other words, they may be placed between the helping verb and the past participle.
- For emphasis, an adverb may be placed at the beginning of a sentence: *Malheureusement, Suzanne est déjà partie.*

§8.3 TYPES

§8.3-1 Interrogative Adverbs

Some common interrogative adverbs are *comment*, *combien*, *pourquoi*, *quand*, *où*.

EXAMPLES

Comment allez-vous? Combien coûte ce livre? Pourquoi partez-vous? Quand arriverez-vous? Où allez-vous?

§8.3–2 Adverbs of Quantity

Some adverbial expressions of quantity are *beaucoup de*, *assez de*, *peu de*, *trop de*, *plus de*. With these, no article is used: *peu de sucre*, *beaucoup de travail*, *assez de temps*, *trop de lait*, *combien d'argent*.

§8.3–3 Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
<i>vite</i> / quickly	<i>plus vite (que)</i> / more quickly (than) faster (than)	<i>le plus vite</i> / (the) most quickly, (the) fastest
	<i>moins vite (que)</i> / less quickly (than)	<i>le moins vite</i> / (the) least quickly
	<i>aussi vite (que)</i> / as quickly (as), as fast (as)	

EXAMPLES

Arlette parle plus vite que Marie-France. / Arlette speaks faster than Marie-France.

Madame Legrange parle moins vite que Madame Duval. / Madame Legrange speaks less quickly than Madame Duval.

Monsieur Bernard parle aussi vite que Monsieur Claude. / Monsieur Bernard speaks as fast as Monsieur Claude.

Madame Durocher parle le plus vite tandis que Madame Milot parle le moins vite. / Madame Durocher speaks the fastest whereas Madame Milot speaks the least fast (the slowest).

Aussi . . . que becomes *si . . . que* in a negative sentence.

EXAMPLE

Justin ne parle pas si vite que Justine. / Justin does not talk as fast as Justine.

Irregular Comparative and Superlative Adverbs

Adverb	Comparative	Superlative
bien / well	mieux / better	le mieux / best, the best
beaucoup / much	plus / more	le plus / most, the most
mal / badly	{ plus mal / worse pis / worse	{ le plus mal / worst, the worst le moins bien / the worst
peu / little	moins / less	{ le pis / worst, the worst le moins / least, the least

EXAMPLES

Pierre travaille bien, Henri travaille mieux que Robert et Georges travaille le mieux.

Marie étudie beaucoup, Paulette étudie plus que Marie, et Henriette étudie le plus.

§8.4 OUI AND SI

Ordinarily, *oui* is used to mean “yes.” However, *si* can also be used to mean “yes” in response to a question in the negative.

EXAMPLES

Aimez-vous le français? —Oui, j'aime le français.

N'aimez-vous pas le français? —Si, j'aime le français.

Mnemonic tip *Une scie* (pronounced like the English “see”) is a carpenter’s “saw.”

§9.

Prepositions — Special Uses

§9.1 *Dans* and *en* + a length of time

The prepositions *dans* and *en* both mean "in," but each is used in a different sense.

Dans + a length of time indicates that something will happen at the end of that length of time.

Le docteur va venir dans une demi-heure. / The doctor will come in a half-hour (i.e., at the end of a half-hour).

Dans and a duration of time can be at the beginning of the sentence or at the end of it and future time is ordinarily implied.

En + a length of time indicates that something happened or will happen at any time *within* that length of time.

EXAMPLES

Robert a fait cela en une heure. / Robert did that in (within) an (one) hour.

Robert fera cela en une heure. / Robert will do that in (within) an (one) hour.

BUT

Robert fera cela dans une heure. / Robert will do that in (at the end of) an (one) hour.

§9.2 *Envers* and *vers*

Envers is used in a figurative sense in the meaning of "with regard to" someone, "with respect to" someone, "for" someone, or "for" something.

EXAMPLES

Je montre beaucoup de respect envers les vieilles personnes. / I show a lot of respect toward old persons.

Je ne montre aucun respect envers un criminel. / I show no respect toward a criminal.

Vers also means "toward," but is used in the physical sense (in the direction of) as well as in the figurative sense.

EXAMPLES

Pourquoi allez-vous vers la porte? / Why are you going toward the door?

Je vais partir vers trois heures. / I am going to leave toward (around) three o'clock.

§9.3 Pendant and pour**IN THE PRESENT TENSE**

Combien de temps étudiez-vous chaque soir? / How long do you study every evening?

J'étudie une heure chaque soir. / I study one hour each night.

OR *J'étudie pendant une heure chaque soir.* / I study for one hour each night.

IN THE PAST INDEFINITE

Combien de temps êtes-vous resté(e) à Paris? / How long did you stay in Paris?

Je suis resté(e) à Paris deux semaines. / I stayed in Paris two weeks. OR *Je suis resté(e) à Paris pendant deux semaines.* / I stayed in Paris for two weeks.

IN THE FUTURE

Combien de temps resterez-vous à Paris? / How long will you stay in Paris?

J'y resterai pendant deux semaines. / I will stay there for two weeks. OR *J'y resterai deux semaines.* / I will stay there two weeks.

§10.

Conjunctions

§10.1 DEFINITION

A conjunction is a word that connects words, phrases, clauses, or sentences, such as *et* / and, *mais* / but, *ou* / or, *parce que* / because. The following is a list of the most common conjunctions.

§10.2 Basic Conjunctions

- à moins que* / unless
- afin que* / in order that, so that
- aussitôt que* / as soon as
- avant que* / before
- bien que* / although
- car* / for
- comme* / as, since
- de crainte que* / for fear that
- de peur que* / for fear that
- de sorte que* / so that, in such a way that
- depuis que* / since
- dès que* / as soon as
- donc* / therefore, consequently
- en même temps que* / at the same time as
- et* / and
- jusqu'à ce que* / until
- lorsque* / when, at the time when
- maintenant que* / now that
- mais* / but
- ou* / or
- parce que* / because
- pendant le temps que* / while

pendant que / while
pour que / in order that
pourvu que / provided that
puisque / since
quand / when
que / that
quoi que / whatever, no matter what
quoique / although
si / if
tandis que / while, whereas

Mnemonic tip Pronounce the final c in donc as a k when it means consequently (therefore).

Je pense; donc, je suis, I think; therefore, I am.

Special Topics

§11.

Order of Elements in French Sentences

§11.1 Negative Constructions

Some common negative constructions are *ne* + verb + any of the following:

aucun (aucune) / no, not one, not any

Je n'ai aucun livre. / I have no book.

Robert n'a aucune amie. / Robert has no girlfriend.

guère / hardly, scarcely

Paul ne parle guère. / Paul hardly (scarcely) talks.

jamais / never

Jean n'étudie jamais. / John never studies.

ni . . . ni / neither . . . nor

Je n'ai ni argent ni billets. / I have neither money nor tickets.

nul (nulle) / no, not any

Je n'en ai nul besoin. / I have no need of it.

Je ne vais nulle part. / I'm not going anywhere.

pas / not

Je n'ai pas de papier. / I haven't any paper.

pas du tout / not at all

Je ne comprends pas du tout. / I do not understand at all.

personne / nobody, no one, not anybody

Je ne vois personne. / I don't see anybody. I see no one.

plus / any longer, no more, not anymore

Mon père ne travaille plus. / My father doesn't work anymore.

point / not at all

Cet enfant n'a point d'argent. / This child has no money at all.

que / only, but only

Je n'ai que deux francs. / I have (but) only two francs.

rien / nothing

Je n'ai rien sur moi. / I have nothing on me.

Remember that all these negations require *ne* in front of the main verb. Also note that *aucun* (*aucune*), *nul* (*nulle*), *personne*, and *rien* can be used as subjects, but you still need to use *ne* in front of the verb.

EXAMPLES

Personne n'est ici. / Nobody is here.

Rien n'est dans ce tiroir. / Nothing is in this drawer.

Une devinette

J'ai des yeux mais je n'ai pas de paupières et je vis dans l'eau. Qui suis-je? / I have eyes, but I don't have eyelids and I live in the water. Who am I?

un poisson / a fish

§11.2 Declarative Sentence with a Verb in a Simple Tense (e.g., present)

SUBJECT → *ne (n')* + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{me (m')} \\ \text{te (t')} \\ \text{se (s')} \\ \text{nous} \\ \text{vous} \end{array} \right\}$ OR $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{le} \\ \text{la} \\ \text{l'} \\ \text{les} \end{array} \right\}$ AND/OR $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{lui} \\ \text{leur} \end{array} \right\}$
 OR *y + en + VERB → pas*

EXAMPLES

Il ne me les donne pas. / He is not giving them to me.

Je ne le leur donne pas. / I am not giving it to them.

Il n'y en a pas. / There aren't any of them.

§11.3 Declarative Sentence with a Verb in a Compound Tense (e.g., passé composé)

SUBJECT → *ne (n')* + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{me (m')} \\ \text{te (t')} \\ \text{se (s')} \\ \text{nous} \\ \text{vous} \end{array} \right\}$ OR $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{le} \\ \text{la} \\ \text{l'} \\ \text{les} \end{array} \right\}$ AND/OR $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{lui} \\ \text{leur} \end{array} \right\}$
 OR *y + en + VERB → pas + past participle (auxiliary verb avoir or être in a simple tense)*

EXAMPLES

Yvonne ne s'est pas lavée. / Yvonne did not wash herself.

Il ne m'en a pas envoyé. / He did not send any of them to me.

Je ne le lui ai pas donné. / I did not give it to him (to her).

Nous ne vous les avons pas données. / We have not given them to you.

Ils ne s'en sont pas allés. / They did not go away.

§11.4 Affirmative Imperative Sentence

VERB + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} le \\ la \\ l' \\ les \end{array} \right\}$ **OR** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} moi (m') \\ toi (t') \\ nous \\ vous \end{array} \right\}$ **AND/OR** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} lui \\ leur \end{array} \right\}$ **OR** *y + en*

EXAMPLES

Donnez-les-leur. / Give them to them.

Assieds-toi. / Sit down.

Allez-vous-en! / Go away!

Apportez-le-moi! / Bring it to me!

Donnez-m'en! / Give me some!

Allez-y! / Go to it! Go there!

§11.5 Negative Imperative Sentence

Ne (N') + $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} me (m') \\ te (t') \\ nous \\ vous \end{array} \right\}$ **OR** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} le \\ la \\ l' \\ les \end{array} \right\}$ **OR** $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} lui \\ leur \end{array} \right\}$ **OR** *y + en + VERB → pas*

EXAMPLES

Ne l'y mettez pas. / Do not put it in it. Do not put it there.

Ne les leur donnez pas. / Do not give them to them.

Ne t'assieds pas! / Don't sit down!

Ne vous en allez pas! / Don't go away!

Mnemonic tip Object pronouns fall in the right order if you alphabetize them!

$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} la \\ le \\ les \end{array} \right\} + \left\{ \begin{array}{l} leur \\ lui \end{array} \right\}$

The order is always the same, whether before or after a verb or before an infinitive.

§12.

Idioms

§12.1 SPECIAL USES

Depuis

- With the present indicative tense

When an action of some sort began in the past and is still going on in the present, use the present tense with *depuis* + the length of time.

Je travaille dans ce bureau depuis trois ans. / I have been working in this office for three years.

Use *depuis combien de temps* + the present indicative of the verb to ask how long one has been + verb:

Depuis combien de temps travaillez-vous dans ce bureau? / How long have you been working in this office? *Je travaille dans ce bureau depuis un an.* / I have been working in this office for one year.

- With the imperfect indicative tense

When an action of some sort began in the past and continued up to another point in the past that you are telling about, use the imperfect indicative tense with *depuis* + the length of time:

J'attendais l'autobus depuis vingt minutes quand il est arrivé. / I had been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes when it arrived.

- In a question

Depuis combien de temps attendez-vous l'autobus? / How long have you been waiting for the bus?

J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes. / I have been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.

Note: When you use *depuis combien de temps* in a question, you expect the other person to tell you how long, how much time — how many minutes, how many hours, how many days, weeks, months, years, etc.

Depuis quand habitez-vous cet appartement? / Since when have you been living in this apartment?

J'habite cet appartement depuis le premier septembre. / I have been living in this apartment since September first.

Note: When you use *depuis quand* in your question, you expect the other person to tell you since what particular point in time in the past — a particular day, date, month; in other words, since *when*, not *how long*.

Depuis quand êtes-vous malade? / Since when have you been sick?

Je suis malade depuis samedi. / I have been sick since Saturday.

Depuis quand habitez-vous l'appartement quand vous avez déménagé? / Since when had you been living in the apartment when you moved?

J'habitais l'appartement depuis le cinq avril dernier quand j'ai déménagé. / I had been living in the apartment since last April fifth when I moved.

Il y a + Length of Time + que; voici + Length of Time + que; voilà + Length of Time + que

- In questions and answers

Depuis combien de temps attendez-vous l'autobus? / How long have you been waiting for the bus?

J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes. / I have been waiting for the bus for twenty minutes.

Voici vingt minutes que je l'attends. / I have been waiting for it for twenty minutes.

Voilà vingt minutes que je l'attends. / I have been waiting for it for twenty minutes.

Note: When you use these expressions, you generally use them at the beginning of your answer + the verb.

When you use the *depuis* construction, the verb comes first: *J'attends l'autobus depuis vingt minutes.*

• *Il y a* + length of time

Il y a + length of time means "ago." Do not use *que* in this construction as in the above examples because the meaning is entirely different.

Madame Martin est partie il y a une heure. / Mrs. Martin left an hour ago.

L'autobus est arrivé il y a vingt minutes. / The bus arrived twenty minutes ago.

• *Il y a* and *Il y avait*

Il y a alone means "there is" or "there are" when you are merely making a statement.

Il y a vingt élèves dans cette classe. / There are twenty students in this class.

Il y a une mouche dans la soupe. / There is a fly in the soup.

Il y avait alone means "there was" or "there were" when you are merely making a statement.

Il y avait vingt élèves dans cette classe. / There were (used to be) twenty students in this class.

Il y avait deux mouches dans la soupe. / There were two flies in the soup.

Voici and Voilà

These two expressions are used to point out someone or something.

Voici un taxi! / Here's a taxi!

Voilà un taxi là-bas! / There's a taxi over there!

Voici ma carte d'identité et voilà mon passeport. / Here's my ID card and there's my passport.

Voici mon père et voilà ma mère. / Here's my father and there's my mother.

§12.2 BASIC EXPRESSIONS

With à

*à bicyclette / by bicycle,
on a bicycle*

*à bientôt / so long, see
you soon*

*à cause de / on account
of, because of*

*à cette heure / at this
time, at the present
moment*

à cheval / on horseback

à côté de / beside, next to

*à demain / until tomor-
row, see you tomorrow*

*à droite / at (on, to) the
right*

*à gauche / at (on, to) the
left*

*à haute voix / aloud, out
loud, in a loud voice*

à jamais / forever

à l'école / at (in, to) school

*à l'étranger / abroad,
overseas*

à l'heure / on time

à l'instant / instantly

*à l'occasion / on the oc-
casion*

*à la campagne / at (in, to)
the country(side)*

à la fin / at last, finally

à la fois / at the same time

*à la main / in one's hand,
by hand*

à la maison / at home

*à la mode / fashionable,
in style, in fashion*

à la radio / on the radio

*à la recherche de / in
search of*

à la télé / on TV

à mon avis / in my opinion

à part / aside

à partir de / beginning with

à peine / hardly, scarcely

*à peu près / approxi-
mately, about, nearly*

à pied / on foot	à tour de rôle / in turn
à plus tard / see you later	à tout à l'heure / see you in a little while
à présent / now, at present	à tout prix / at any cost
à propos / by the way	à travers / across, through
à propos de / about, with reference to, concerning	à tue-tête / at the top of one's voice, as loud as possible
à quelle heure? / at what time?	à vélo / on a bike
à qui est ce livre? / whose is this book?	à voix basse / in a low voice, softly
à quoi bon? / what's the use?	à volonté / at will, willingly
à son gré / to one's liking	à vrai dire / to tell the truth
à temps / in time	à vue d'œil / visibly

With *au*

au bas de / at the bottom of	au milieu de / in the middle of
au besoin / if need be, if necessary	au moins / at least
au bout de / at the end of, at the tip of	au pied de / at the foot of
au contraire / on the contrary	au printemps / in the spring
au début / at (in) the beginning	au revoir / goodbye
au-dessous de / below, beneath	au sous-sol / in the basement
au-dessus de / above, over	au sujet de / about, concerning
au fond de / in the bottom of	au téléphone / on the telephone
au haut de / at the top of	café au lait / coffee with milk
au lieu de / instead of	rosbif au jus / roast beef with gravy

With aux

aux dépens / at the expense

aux pommes frites / with French fries

rire aux éclats / to roar with laughter

sauter aux yeux / to be evident, self-evident

With aller

aller / to feel (health):

Comment allez-vous?

aller à / to be becoming, fit, suit: *Cette robe lui va bien.* / This dress suits her fine. *Sa barbe ne lui va pas.* / His beard does not look good on him.

aller à la chasse / to go hunting

aller à la pêche / to go fishing

aller à la rencontre de quelqu'un / to go to meet someone

aller à pied / to walk, go on foot

aller au fond des choses / to get to the bottom of things

aller chercher / to go get
allons donc! / nonsense!
come on, now!

With avoir

avoir . . . ans / to be . . . years old:

Quel âge — avez-vous? / J'ai dix-sept ans.

avoir à + infinitive / to have to

avoir affaire à quelqu'un / to deal with someone

avoir beau + infinitive / to be useless + infinitive,

to do something in vain: *Vous avez beau parler; je ne vous écoute pas.* / You are talking in vain; I am not listening to you.

<i>avoir besoin de</i> / to need, to have need of	<i>avoir l'air + adjective</i> / to seem, to look + adjective: <i>Vous avez l'air malade.</i> / You look sick.
<i>avoir bonne mine</i> / to look well	<i>avoir l'air de + infinitive</i> / to appear + infinitive: <i>Vous avez l'air d'être malade.</i> / You appear to be sick.
<i>avoir chaud</i> / to be (feel) warm (persons)	<i>avoir l'habitude de + infinitive</i> / to be accustomed to, to be in the habit of: <i>J'ai l'habitude de faire mes devoirs avant le dîner.</i> / I'm in the habit of doing my homework before dinner.
<i>avoir congé</i> / to have a day off, a holiday	<i>avoir l'idée de + infinitive</i> / to have a notion + infinitive
<i>avoir de la chance</i> / to be lucky	<i>avoir l'intention de + infinitive</i> / to intend + infinitive
<i>avoir de quoi + infinitive</i> / to have the material, means, enough + infinitive: <i>As-tu de quoi manger?</i> / Have you something (enough) to eat?	<i>avoir la bonté de + infinitive</i> / to have the kindness
<i>avoir des nouvelles</i> / to receive news	<i>avoir la langue bien pendue</i> / to have the gift of gab
<i>avoir du savoir-faire</i> / to have tact	<i>avoir la parole</i> / to have the floor (to speak)
<i>avoir du savoir-vivre</i> / to have good manners	<i>avoir le cœur gros</i> / to be heartbroken
<i>avoir envie de + infinitive</i> / to have a desire to	
<i>avoir faim</i> / to be (feel) hungry	
<i>avoir froid</i> / to be (feel) cold (persons)	
<i>avoir hâte</i> / to be in a hurry	
<i>avoir honte</i> / to be ashamed, to feel ashamed	

<i>avoir le temps de</i> + infinitive / to have (the) time + infinitive	<i>avoir peur de</i> / to be afraid of
<i>avoir lieu</i> / to take place	<i>avoir pitié de</i> / to take pity on
<i>avoir mal</i> / to feel sick	<i>avoir raison</i> / to be right (persons)
<i>avoir mal à</i> + (place where it hurts) / to have a pain or ache in . . . : <i>J'ai mal à la jambe.</i> / My leg hurts. <i>J'ai mal au dos.</i> / My back hurts. <i>J'ai mal au cou.</i> / I have a pain in the neck.	<i>avoir soif</i> / to be thirsty
<i>avoir mauvaise mine</i> / to look ill, not to look well	<i>avoir sommeil</i> / to be sleepy
<i>avoir peine à</i> + infinitive / to have difficulty in + present participle	<i>avoir son mot à dire</i> / to have one's way
	<i>avoir tort</i> / to be wrong (persons)
	<i>avoir une faim de loup</i> / to be starving

With *bas*

<i>au bas de</i> / at the bottom of	<i>parler tout bas</i> / to speak very softly
<i>en bas</i> / downstairs, below	<i>de haut en bas</i> / from top to bottom
<i>là-bas</i> / over there	
<i>A bas les devoirs!</i> / Down with homework!	

With *bien*

bien des / many: Roger a bien des amis. / Roger has many friends.
bien entendu / of course
dire du bien de / to speak well of

être bien aise / to be very glad, happy
tant bien que mal / rather badly, so-so

With *bon*

à quoi bon? / what's the use?
bon gré, mal gré / willing or not, willy nilly
bon marché / cheap, at a low price
bon pour quelqu'un / good to someone

de bon appétit / with good appetite, heartily
de bon cœur / gladly, willingly
savoir bon gré à quelqu'un / to be thankful, grateful to someone

With *ça*

ça et là / here and there
Ça m'est égal. / It makes no difference to me.
comme ci, comme ça / so-so

Ça va? / Is everything okay?
C'est comme ça! / That's how it is!
Pas de ça! / None of that!

With *cela*

Cela est égal. / It's all the same. It doesn't matter. It makes no difference.

Cela m'est égal. / It doesn't matter to me. It's all the same to me.

Cela n'importe. / That doesn't matter.

Cela ne fait rien. / That makes no difference.

Cela ne sert à rien. / That serves no purpose.

Cela ne vous regarde pas. / That's none of your business.

malgré cela / in spite of that

malgré tout cela / in spite of all that

Qu'est-ce que cela veut dire? / What does that mean?

With *ce*, *c'est*, *est-ce*

c'est-à-dire / that is, that is to say

C'est aujourd'hui lundi. / Today is Monday.

C'est dommage. / It's a pity. It's too bad.

C'est entendu. / It's understood. It's agreed. All right. OK.

C'est épata nt! / It's wonderful!

C'est trop fort! / That's just too much!

n'est-ce pas? / isn't that so? isn't it?, etc.

Qu'est-ce que c'est? / What is it?

Quel jour est-ce aujourd'hui? / What day is it today? *C'est lundi.* / It's Monday.

Qu'est-ce qui s'est passé? / What happened?

With *d'*

<i>changer d'avis</i> / to change one's opinion, one's mind	<i>d'avance</i> / in advance, beforehand
<i>comme d'habitude</i> / as usual	<i>d'habitude</i> / ordinarily, usually, generally
<i>d'abord</i> / at first	<i>d'ici longtemps</i> / for a long time to come
<i>d'accord</i> / okay, agreed	<i>d'ordinaire</i> / ordinarily, usually, generally
<i>d'ailleurs</i> / besides, moreover	<i>tout d'un coup</i> / all of a sudden
<i>d'aujourd'hui en huit</i> / a week from today	

With *de*

<i>au haut de</i> / at the top of	<i>de nouveau</i> / again
<i>autour de</i> / around	<i>de parti pris</i> / on purpose, deliberately
<i>changer de train</i> / to change trains: <i>changer de vêtements</i> / to change clothes	<i>de plus</i> / furthermore
<i>combien de</i> / how much, how many	<i>de plus en plus</i> / more and more
<i>de bon appétit</i> / with good appetite, heartily	<i>de quelle couleur . . . ?</i> / what color . . . ?
<i>de bon cœur</i> / gladly, willingly	<i>de quoi</i> + infinitive / something, enough + infinitive: <i>de quoi écrire</i> / something to write with; <i>de quoi manger</i> / something or enough to eat; <i>de quoi vivre</i> / something or enough to live on
<i>de bonne heure</i> / early	
<i>de cette façon</i> / in this way	
<i>de jour en jour</i> / from day to day	
<i>de l'autre côté de</i> / on the other side of	
<i>de la part de</i> / on behalf of, from	<i>de rien</i> / you're welcome, don't mention it

<i>de rigueur / required, obligatory</i>	<i>jouer de / to play (a musical instrument)</i>
<i>de son mieux / one's best</i>	<i>manquer de + infinitive / to fail to, to almost do something: Victor a manqué de se noyer. / Victor almost drowned.</i>
<i>de suite / one after another, in succession</i>	<i>mettre de côté / to lay aside, to save</i>
<i>de temps en temps / from time to time, occasion- ally</i>	<i>pas de mal! / no harm!</i>
<i>de toutes ses forces / with all one's might, strenuously</i>	<i>près de / near</i>
<i>du côté de / in the direction of, toward</i>	<i>quelque chose de + adjective / something + adjective: J'ai bu quelque chose de bon! / I drank some- thing good!</i>
<i>éclater de rire / to burst out laughing</i>	<i>Quoi de neuf? / What's new?</i>
<i>en face de / opposite</i>	<i>Rien de neuf! / Nothing's new!</i>
<i>entendre parler de / to hear about</i>	<i>tout de même / all the same</i>
<i>être de retour / to be back</i>	<i>tout de suite / immedi- ately, at once</i>
<i>être en train de / to be in the act of, in the process of</i>	<i>venir de + infinitive / to have just done some- thing; Je viens de manger. / I have just eaten.</i>
<i>être temps de + infinitive / to be time + infinitive</i>	
<i>faire semblant de + infinitive / to pretend + infinitive</i>	
<i>féliciter quelqu'un de quelque chose / to congratulate someone for something</i>	
<i>Il n'y a pas de quoi! / You're welcome!</i>	
<i>jamais de la vie! / never in one's life! never! out of the question!</i>	

With *du*

<i>dire du bien de quelqu'un</i> / to speak well of someone	<i>du matin au soir</i> / from morning until night
<i>dire du mal de quelqu'un</i> / to speak ill of someone	<i>du moins</i> / at least
<i>donner du chagrin à quelqu'un</i> / to give someone grief	<i>du reste</i> / besides, in addition, furthermore
<i>du côté de</i> / in the direction of, toward	<i>montrer du doigt</i> / to point out, to show, to indicate by pointing
	<i>pas du tout</i> / not at all

With *en*

<i>de jour en jour</i> / from day to day	<i>en bateau</i> / by boat
<i>de temps en temps</i> / from time to time	<i>en bois, en pierre, en + a material</i> / made of wood, of stone, etc.
<i>en anglais, en français, etc.</i> / in English, in French, etc.	<i>en chemin de fer</i> / by train
<i>en arrière</i> / backwards, to the rear, behind	<i>en dessous (de)</i> / underneath
<i>en automne, en hiver, en été</i> / in the fall, in winter, in summer	<i>en dessus (de)</i> / above, on top, over
<i>en automobile</i> / by car	<i>en effet</i> / in fact, indeed, yes, indeed
<i>en avion</i> / by plane	<i>en face de</i> / opposite
<i>en avoir plein le dos</i> / to be sick and tired of something	<i>en famille</i> / as a family
<i>en bas</i> / downstairs, below	<i>en haut</i> / upstairs, above
	<i>en huit jours</i> / in a week
	<i>en même temps</i> / at the same time

<i>en panne</i> / mechanical breakdown	<i>être en train de + infinitive</i> / to be in the act of + present participle, to be in the process of, to be busy + present participle
<i>en plein air</i> / in the open air, outdoors	
<i>en retard</i> / late, not on time	
<i>en tout cas</i> / in any case, at any rate	<i>Je vous en prie.</i> / I beg you. You're welcome.
<i>en toute hâte</i> / with all possible speed, haste	<i>mettre en pièces</i> / to tear to pieces, to break into pieces
<i>en ville</i> / downtown, in (at, to) town	
<i>En voilà assez!</i> / Enough of that!	<i>voir tout en rose</i> / to see the bright side of things, to be optimistic
<i>en voiture</i> / by car: <i>en voiture!</i> / all aboard!	

With *être*

<i>être à l'heure</i> / to be on time	<i>être en train de + infinitive</i> / to be in the act of, to be in the process of, to be busy + present participle
<i>être à quelqu'un</i> / to belong to someone: <i>Ce livre est à moi.</i> / This book belongs to me.	<i>être en vacances</i> / to be on vacation
<i>être au courant de</i> / to be informed about	<i>être enrhumé</i> / to have a cold, be sick with a cold
<i>être bien</i> / to be comfortable	<i>être pressé(e)</i> / to be in a hurry
<i>être d'accord avec</i> / to agree with	<i>Quelle heure est-il?</i> / What time is it? <i>Il est une heure.</i> / It is one o'clock. <i>Il est deux heures.</i> / It is two o'clock
<i>être de retour</i> / to be back	
<i>être en retard</i> / to be late, not to be on time	

With *faire*

Cela ne fait rien. / That doesn't matter.
Comment se fait-il? / How come?
faire à sa tête / to have one's way
faire attention (à) / to pay attention (to)
faire beau / to be pleasant, nice weather
faire bon accueil / to welcome
faire chaud / to be warm (weather)
faire de l'autostop / to hitchhike
faire de son mieux / to do one's best
faire des châteaux en Espagne / to build castles in the air
faire des emplettes; faire des courses; faire du shopping / to do or to go shopping
faire des progrès / to make progress
faire du bien à quelqu'un / to do good for someone
faire du vélo / to ride a bike
faire exprès / to do on purpose

faire face à / to oppose
faire froid / to be cold (weather)
faire jour / to be daylight
faire la bête / to act like a fool
faire la connaissance de quelqu'un / to make the acquaintance of someone, meet someone for the first time
faire la cuisine / to do the cooking
faire la grasse matinée / to sleep late in the morning
faire la lessive / to do the laundry
faire (une) la malle / to pack (a) the trunk
faire la queue / to line up, to get in line, to stand in line
faire la vaisselle / to do (wash) the dishes
faire le ménage / to do housework
faire les bagages / to pack the baggage, luggage
faire les valises / to pack the suitcases, valises

<i>faire mal à quelqu'un</i> / to hurt, to harm someone	<i>faire une promenade</i> / to take a walk
<i>faire nuit</i> / to be night(time)	<i>faire une visite</i> / to pay a visit
<i>faire peur à quelqu'un</i> / to frighten someone	<i>faire venir quelqu'un</i> / to have someone come: // a fait venir le docteur. / He had the doctor come.
<i>faire plaisir à quelqu'un</i> / to please someone	<i>faire venir l'eau à la bouche</i> / to make one's mouth water
<i>faire sa toilette</i> / to wash and dress oneself	<i>Faites comme chez vous!</i> / Make yourself at home!
<i>faire ses adieux</i> / to say goodbye	<i>Que faire?</i> / What is to be done?
<i>faire son possible</i> / to do one's best	<i>Quel temps fait-il?</i> / What's the weather like?
<i>faire suivre le courrier</i> / to forward mail	
<i>faire un tour</i> / to go for a stroll	
<i>faire un voyage</i> / to take a trip	
<i>faire une partie de</i> / to play a game of	

With *mieux*

<i>aimer mieux</i> / to prefer, like better	<i>de son mieux</i> / one's best
<i>aller mieux</i> / to feel better (person's health):	<i>faire de son mieux</i> / to do one's best
<i>Êtes-vous toujours malade?</i> / Are you still sick? <i>Je vais mieux, merci.</i> / I'm feeling better, thank you.	<i>tant mieux</i> / so much the better
	<i>valoir mieux</i> / to be better (worth more), to be preferable

With *non*

Je crois que non. / I don't think so.

Mais non! / Of course not!

Non merci! / No, thank you!

J'espère bien que non. / I hope not.

With *par*

par bonheur / fortunately
par-ci; par-là / here and there

par conséquent / consequently, therefore

par exemple / for example
par hasard / by chance

par ici / through here, this way, in this direction

par jour / per day, daily
par la fenêtre / out, through the window

par-là / through there, that way, in that direction

par malheur / unfortunately

par mois / per month, monthly

par semaine / per week, weekly

par tous les temps / in all kinds of weather

apprendre par cœur / to learn by heart, memorize

finir par + infinitive / to end up + present

participle: *Ils ont fini par se marier.* / They ended up by getting married.

jeter l'argent par la fenêtre / to waste money

With *plus*

de plus / furthermore,
besides, in addition

de plus en plus / more
and more

n'en pouvoir plus / to be
exhausted, not to be
able to go on any
longer: *Je n'en peux
plus!* / I can't go on any
longer!

*Plus ça change plus c'est
la même chose.* / The
more it changes, the
more it remains the
same.

une fois de plus / once
more, one more time

With *quel*

Quel âge avez-vous? /
How old are you?
Quel garçon! / What a
boy!

*Quel jour est-ce au-
jourd'hui?* / What day
is it today?

With *quelle*

*De quelle couleur est
(sont) . . . ?* / What
color is (are) . . . ?
Quelle fille! / What a girl!

Quelle heure est-il? /
What time is it?
Quelle chance! / What
luck!

With *quelque chose*

quelque chose à + infinitive / something + infinitive: *J'ai quelque chose à lui dire.* / I have something to say to him (to her).

quelque chose de + adjective / something + adjective: *J'ai quelque chose d'intéressant à vous dire.* / I have something interesting to tell you.

With *quoi*

à quoi bon? / what's the use?
avoir de quoi + infinitive / to have something (enough) + infinitive: *Avez-vous de quoi écrire?* / Do you have something to write with?

avoir de quoi manger / to have something to eat
Il n'y a pas de quoi! / You're welcome!
Quoi de neuf? / What's new?

With *rien*

Cela ne fait rien. / That doesn't matter.
Cela ne sert à rien. / That serves no purpose.

de rien / you're welcome, don't mention it
Rien de neuf! / Nothing's new!

With *tant*

tant bien que mal / so-so
tant mieux / so much the better
tant pis / so much the worse
J'ai tant de travail! / I have so much work!

Je t'aime tant! / I love you so much!
tant de choses / so many things

With *tous*

tous (les) deux / both (m. plural)
tous les ans / every year
tous les jours / every day
tous les matins / every morning

tous les soirs / every evening
tous les mois / every month

With *tout*

après tout / after all
en tout cas / in any case, at any rate
pas du tout / not at all
tout à coup / suddenly
tout à fait / completely, entirely
tout à l'heure / a little while ago, in a little while
tout d'abord / first of all

tout d'un coup / all of a sudden
tout de même! / all the same! just the same!
tout de suite / immediately, at once, right away
tout le monde / everybody
tout le temps / all the time

With toute

en toute hâte / with all possible speed, in great haste

toute chose / everything
de toutes ses forces / with all one's might

toutes (les) deux / both (f. plural)

toutes les nuits / every night

With y

il y a + length of time / ago: *il y a un mois* / a month ago

il y a / there is, there are
il y avait . . . / there was (there were) . . .

Il n'y a pas de quoi. / You're welcome.
y compris / including

§13.

Dates, Days, Months, Seasons

§13.1 Dates

*Quelle est la date aujourd'hui? / What's the date today?
Quel jour sommes-nous aujourd'hui? / What's the date
today?*

*C'est aujourd'hui le premier octobre. / Today is October first.
C'est aujourd'hui le deux novembre. / Today is November
second.*

C'est lundi. / It's Monday.

C'est aujourd'hui mardi. / Today is Tuesday.

Quand êtes-vous né(e)? / When were you born?

*Je suis né(e) le vingt-deux août, mil neuf cent soixante-six. /
I was born on August 22, 1966.*

Use the cardinal numbers for dates, except "the first," which is *le premier*.

§13.2 Days

The days of the week, which are all masculine, are:

dimanche / Sunday

jeudi / Thursday

lundi / Monday

vendredi / Friday

mardi / Tuesday

samedi / Saturday

mercredi / Wednesday

§13.3 Months

The months of the year, which are all masculine, are:

<i>janvier</i> / January	<i>juillet</i> / July
<i>février</i> / February	<i>août</i> / August
<i>mars</i> / March	<i>septembre</i> / September
<i>avril</i> / April	<i>octobre</i> / October
<i>mai</i> / May	<i>novembre</i> / November
<i>juin</i> / June	<i>décembre</i> / December

To say “in” + the name of the month, use *en*: *en janvier*, *en février*; OR *au mois de janvier*, *au mois de février* / in the month of January, etc.

§13.4 Seasons

The seasons of the year, which are all masculine, are:

<i>le printemps</i> / spring	<i>l'automne</i> / fall
<i>l'été</i> / summer	<i>l'hiver</i> / winter

Mnemonic tip *En hiver*, you shiver.

To say “in” + the name of the season, use *en* except with *printemps*: *au printemps*, *en été*, *en automne*, *en hiver* / in spring, in summer, etc.

Telling Time

§14.1 TIME EXPRESSIONS YOU OUGHT TO KNOW

Quelle heure est-il? / What time is it?

Il est une heure. / It is one o'clock.

Il est une heure dix. / It is ten minutes after one.

Il est une heure et quart. / It is a quarter after one.

Il est deux heures et demie. / It is half past two; it is two thirty.

Il est trois heures moins vingt. / It is twenty minutes to three.

Il est trois heures moins le quart. / It is a quarter to three.

Il est midi. / It is noon.

Il est minuit. / It is midnight.

à quelle heure? / at what time?

à une heure / at one o'clock

à une heure précise / at exactly one o'clock

à deux heures précises / at exactly two o'clock

à neuf heures du matin / at nine in the morning

à trois heures de l'après-midi / at three in the afternoon

à dix heures du soir / at ten in the evening

à l'heure / on time

à temps / in time

vers trois heures / around three o'clock; about three o'clock

un quart d'heure / a quarter of an hour; a quarter hour

une demi-heure / a half hour

Il est midi et demi / It is twelve thirty; It is half past twelve (noon).

Il est minuit et demi. / It is twelve thirty; It is half past twelve (midnight).

- In telling time, *Il est* + the hour is used, whether it is one or more than one, e.g., *Il est une heure*. *Il est deux heures*.
- If the time is after the hour, state the hour, then the minutes: *Il est une heure dix*.
- The conjunction *et* is used with *quart* after the hour and with *demi* or *demie*: *Il est une heure et quart*. *Il est une heure et demie*. *Il est midi et demi*.

The masculine form *demi* is used after a masculine noun: *Il est midi et demi*. The feminine form *demie* is used after a feminine noun: *Il est deux heures et demie*.

Demi remains *demi* when before a feminine or masculine noun, and is joined to the noun with a hyphen: *une demi-heure*.

- If the time expressed is before the hour, *moins* is used: *Il est trois heures moins vingt*.
- A quarter to the hour is *moins le quart*.
- To express A.M. use *du matin*; to express P.M. use *de l'après-midi* if the time is in the afternoon; *du soir* if in the evening.

§14.2 “OFFICIAL” TIME EXPRESSIONS

Another way to tell time is the official time used by the French government on radio and TV, in railroad and bus stations, and at airports.

- It is the twenty-four-hour system.
- In this system, *quart*, *demi*, *demie*, *moins*, and *et* are not used.

- When you hear or see the stated time, subtract twelve from the number you hear or see. If the number is less than twelve, it is A.M. time, except for *24 heures*, which is midnight; *zéro heure* is also midnight.

EXAMPLES

Il est treize heures. / It is 1:00 P.M.
Il est quinze heures. / It is 3:00 P.M.
Il est vingt heures trente. / It is 8:30 P.M.
Il est minuit. / It is midnight.
Il est seize heures trente. / It is 4:30 P.M.
Il est dix-huit heures quinze. / It is 6:15 P.M.
Il est vingt heures quarante-cinq. / It is 8:45 P.M.
Il est vingt-deux heures cinquante. / It is 10:50 P.M.

The abbreviation for *heure* or *heures* is *h.*

EXAMPLES

Il est 20 h. 20. / It is 8:20 P.M.
Il est 15 h. 50. / It is 3:50 P.M.
Il est 23 h. 30. / It is 11:30 P.M.

Talking About the Weather

Quel temps fait-il? / What's the weather like?

WITH *Il fait* . . .

Il fait beau. / The weather is fine. The weather is beautiful.

Il fait beau temps. / The weather is beautiful.

Il fait chaud. / It's warm.

Il fait clair. / It is clear.

Il fait doux. / It's mild.

Il fait du soleil. / It's sunny. (You can also say *Il fait soleil.*)

Il fait du tonnerre. / It's thundering. (OR: *Il tonne.*)

Il fait du vent. / It's windy.

Il fait frais. / It is cool.

Il fait froid. / It's cold.

Il fait humide. / It's humid.

Il fait mauvais. / The weather is bad.

WITH *Il fait un temps* . . .

Il fait un temps affreux. / The weather is frightful.

Il fait un temps calme. / The weather is calm.

Il fait un temps couvert. / The weather is cloudy.

Il fait un temps lourd. / It's muggy.

Il fait un temps magnifique. / The weather is magnificent.

Il fait un temps superbe. / The weather is superb.

WITH *Le temps + VERB* . . .

Le temps menace. / The weather is threatening.

Le temps se gâte. / The weather is getting bad.

Le temps se met au beau. / The weather is getting beautiful.

Le temps se met au froid. / It's getting cold.

Le temps se rafraîchit. / The weather is getting cool.

WITH *Le ciel est . . .*

Le ciel est bleu. / The sky is blue.

Le ciel est calme. / The sky is calm.

Le ciel est couvert. / The sky is cloudy.

Le ciel est gris. / The sky is gray.

WITH OTHER VERBS

Il gèle. / It's freezing.

Il grêle. / It's hailing.

Il neige. / It's snowing.

Il pleut. / It's raining.

Il tombe de la grêle. / It's hailing.

§16.

Numbers

Cardinal Numbers: 1 to 1000

0 <i>zéro</i>	40 <i>quarante</i>
1 <i>un, une</i>	41 <i>quarante et un</i>
2 <i>deux</i>	42 <i>quarante-deux, etc.</i>
3 <i>trois</i>	50 <i>cinquante</i>
4 <i>quatre</i>	51 <i>cinquante et un</i>
5 <i>cinq</i>	52 <i>cinquante-deux, etc.</i>
6 <i>six</i>	60 <i>soixante</i>
7 <i>sept</i>	61 <i>soixante et un</i>
8 <i>huit</i>	62 <i>soixante-deux, etc.</i>
9 <i>neuf</i>	
10 <i>dix</i>	
11 <i>onze</i>	70 <i>soixante-dix</i>
12 <i>douze</i>	71 <i>soixante et onze</i>
13 <i>treize</i>	72 <i>soixante-douze, etc.</i>
14 <i>quatorze</i>	
15 <i>quinze</i>	80 <i>quatre-vingts</i>
16 <i>seize</i>	81 <i>quatre-vingt-un</i>
17 <i>dix-sept</i>	82 <i>quatre-vingt-deux, etc.</i>
18 <i>dix-huit</i>	
19 <i>dix-neuf</i>	
20 <i>vingt</i>	90 <i>quatre-vingt-dix</i>
21 <i>vingt et un</i>	91 <i>quatre-vingt-onze</i>
22 <i>vingt-deux, etc.</i>	92 <i>quatre-vingt-douze, etc.</i>
30 <i>trente</i>	100 <i>cent</i>
31 <i>trente et un</i>	101 <i>cent un</i>
32 <i>trente-deux, etc.</i>	102 <i>cent deux, etc.</i>

200 <i>deux cents</i> 201 <i>deux cent un</i> 202 <i>deux cent deux</i> , etc.	800 <i>huit cents</i> 801 <i>huit cent un</i> 802 <i>huit cent deux</i> , etc.
300 <i>trois cents</i> 301 <i>trois cent un</i> 302 <i>trois cent deux</i> , etc.	900 <i>neuf cents</i> 901 <i>neuf cent un</i> 902 <i>neuf cent deux</i> , etc.
400 <i>quatre cents</i> 401 <i>quatre cent un</i> 402 <i>quatre cent deux</i> , etc.	1000 <i>mille</i>
500 <i>cinq cents</i> 501 <i>cinq cent un</i> 502 <i>cinq cent deux</i> , etc.	Mnemonic tip
600 <i>six cents</i> 601 <i>six cent un</i> 602 <i>six cent deux</i> , etc.	If you're not sure that <i>vingt</i> is spelled with <i>ng</i> or <i>gn</i> , note this:
700 <i>sept cents</i> 701 <i>sept cent un</i> 702 <i>sept cent deux</i> , etc.	V I N G T T W E N T Y

Mnemonic tip Pronounce *seize* (16) as in English "Says who?"

Simple Arithmetical Expressions

<i>deux et deux font quatre</i>	$2 + 2 = 4$
<i>trois fois cinq font quinze</i>	$3 \times 5 = 15$
<i>douze moins dix font deux</i>	$12 - 10 = 2$
<i>dix divisés par deux font cinq</i>	$10 \div 2 = 5$

Fractions

$\frac{1}{2}$	<i>un demi</i>	a (one) half
$\frac{1}{3}$	<i>un tiers</i>	a (one) third
$\frac{1}{4}$	<i>un quart</i>	a (one) fourth
$\frac{1}{5}$	<i>un cinquième</i>	a (one) fifth

Approximate Amounts

<i>une dizaine</i>	about ten
<i>une quinzaine</i>	about fifteen
<i>une vingtaine</i>	about twenty
<i>une trentaine</i>	about thirty
<i>une quarantaine</i>	about forty
<i>une cinquantaine</i>	about fifty
<i>une soixantaine</i>	about sixty
<i>une centaine</i>	about a hundred
<i>un millier</i>	about a thousand

Mnemonic tip

You can remember that *une quarantaine* is about 40 because there are 40 days in a "quarantine."

Ordinal Numbers: First to Twentieth

first	<i>premier, première</i>	1st	1 ^{er} , 1 ^e
second	<i>deuxième (second, seconde)</i>	2d	2 ^e
third	<i>troisième</i>	3d	3 ^e
fourth	<i>quatrième</i>	4th	4 ^e
fifth	<i>cinquième</i>	5th	5 ^e
sixth	<i>sixième</i>	6th	6 ^e

seventh	<i>septième</i>	7th	7 ^e
eighth	<i>huitième</i>	8th	8 ^e
ninth	<i>neuvième</i>	9th	9 ^e
tenth	<i>dixième</i>	10th	10 ^e
eleventh	<i>onzième</i>	11th	11 ^e
twelfth	<i>douzième</i>	12th	12 ^e
thirteenth	<i>treizième</i>	13th	13 ^e
fourteenth	<i>quatorzième</i>	14th	14 ^e
fifteenth	<i>quinzième</i>	15th	15 ^e
sixteenth	<i>seizième</i>	16th	16 ^e
seventeenth	<i>dix-septième</i>	17th	17 ^e
eighteenth	<i>dix-huitième</i>	18th	18 ^e
nineteenth	<i>dix-neuvième</i>	19th	19 ^e
twentieth	<i>vingtième</i>	20th	20 ^e

Some observations:

- You must learn the difference between cardinal and ordinal numbers. If you have trouble distinguishing between the two, just remember that we use cardinal numbers most of the time: *un, deux, trois* (one, two, three), and so on.
- Use ordinal numbers to express a certain order: *premier* (*première*, if the noun following is feminine), *deuxième*, *troisième* (first, second, third), and so on.
- *Premier* is the masculine singular form and *première* is the feminine singular form. Examples: *le premier homme* / the first man, *la première femme* / the first woman.
- The masculine singular form *second*, or the feminine singular form *seconde*, is used to mean "second" when there are only two. When there are more than two, *deuxième* is used: *le Second Empire*, because there were only two empires in France, but *la Deuxième République*, because there have been more than two republics in France.
- The raised letters in *1^{er}* are the last two letters in the word *premier*; it is equivalent to our "st" in 1st. The raised letters

in *1^{re}* are the last two letters in the word *première*, which is the feminine singular form of "first."

The raised letter *e* after an ordinal number (for example, *2^e*) stands for the *-ième* ending of a French ordinal number.

- When referring to sovereigns or rulers, the only ordinal number used is *premier*. For all other designations, the cardinal numbers are used. The definite article "the" is used in English but not in French. Examples:

<i>François 1^{er}</i>	<i>François Premier</i>	Francis the First
BUT		
<i>Louis XIV</i>	<i>Louis Quatorze</i>	Louis the Fourteenth

§17.

Synonyms

Synonyms are words with the same or nearly the same meaning.

<i>aide</i> n.f., <i>secours</i> n.m.	aid, help
<i>aimer mieux</i> v., <i>préférer</i>	to like better, prefer
<i>aliment</i> n.m., <i>nourriture</i> n.f.	food, nourishment
<i>anneau</i> n.m., <i>bague</i> n.f.	ring (on finger)
<i>arriver</i> v., <i>se passer</i>	to happen, occur
<i>aussitôt que</i> conj., <i>dès que</i>	as soon as
<i>auteur</i> n.m., <i>écrivain</i> n.m.	author, writer
<i>bâtiment</i> n.m., <i>édifice</i> , n.m.	building, edifice
<i>bâtir</i> v., <i>construire</i>	to build, construct
<i>beaucoup de</i> adv., <i>bien des</i>	many
<i>bref.</i> <i>brève</i> adj., <i>court</i> , <i>courte</i>	brief, short
<i>casser</i> v., <i>rompre</i> , <i>briser</i>	to break
<i>causer</i> v., <i>parler</i>	to chat, talk
<i>centre</i> n.m., <i>milieu</i> , n.m.	center, middle
<i>certain</i> (<i>certaine</i>) adj., <i>sûr</i> , <i>sûre</i>	certain, sure
<i>cesser</i> v., <i>arrêter</i>	to cease, to stop
<i>chagrin</i> n.m., <i>souci</i> n.m.	sorrow, trouble, care, concern
<i>chemin</i> n.m., <i>route</i> n.f.	road, route
<i>commencer à</i> + infinitive, v., <i>se mettre à</i> + infinitive	to commence, begin, start
<i>conseil</i> n.m., <i>avis</i> n.m.	counsel, advice, opinion
<i>content</i> , (<i>contente</i>) adj., <i>heureux</i> (<i>heureuse</i>)	content, happy
<i>de façon que</i> conj., <i>de manière que</i>	so that, in such a way
<i>décéder</i> v., <i>mourir</i>	to die

adj.: adjective; adv.: adverb; conj.: conjunction; f.: feminine; m.: masculine;
n.: noun; prep.: preposition; v.: verb

<i>dégoût</i> n.m., <i>répugnance</i> n.f.	disgust, repugnance
<i>dérober</i> v., <i>voler</i>	to rob, steal
<i>désirer</i> v., <i>vouloir</i>	to desire, want
<i>disputer</i> v., <i>contester</i>	to dispute, argue, contest
<i>docteur</i> n.m., <i>médecin</i> , n.m.	doctor, physician
<i>embrasser</i> v., <i>donner un baiser</i>	to embrace, hug; to give a kiss
<i>employer</i> v., <i>se servir de</i>	to employ, use, make use of
<i>épouvanter</i> v., <i>effrayer</i>	to frighten, terrify, scare
<i>erreur</i> n.f., <i>faute</i> , n.f.	error, fault, mistake
<i>espèce</i> n.f., <i>sorte</i> , n.f.	species, type, kind, sort
<i>essayer de</i> + infinitive, v., <i>tâcher de</i> + infinitive	to try, to attempt + infinitive
<i>étrennes</i> n.f., <i>cadeau</i> n.m.	Christmas gifts, present, gift
<i>façon</i> n.f., <i>manière</i> , n.f.	way, manner
<i>fameux</i> , (<i>fameuse</i>) adj., <i>célèbre</i>	famous, celebrated
<i>fatigué</i> , (<i>fatiguée</i>) adj., <i>épuisé</i> , (<i>épuisée</i>)	tired, fatigued, exhausted
<i>favori</i> , (<i>favorite</i>) adj., <i>préféré</i> (<i>préférée</i>)	favorite, preferred
<i>fin</i> n.f., <i>bout</i> n.m.	end
<i>finir</i> v., <i>terminer</i>	to finish, end, terminate
<i>frémir</i> v., <i>trembler</i>	to shiver, quiver, tremble
<i>galette</i> n.f., <i>gâteau</i> n.m.	cake
<i>gaspiller</i> v., <i>dissiper</i>	to waste, dissipate
<i>gâter</i> v., <i>abîmer</i>	to spoil, ruin, damage
<i>glace</i> n.f., <i>miroir</i> n.m.	hand mirror, mirror
<i>grossier</i> , <i>grossière</i> adj., <i>vulgaire</i>	gross, vulgar, cheap, common
<i>habiter</i> v., <i>demeurer</i>	to live (in), dwell, inhabit
<i>haïr</i> v., <i>détester</i>	to hate, detest
<i>image</i> n.f., <i>tableau</i> n.m.	image, picture
<i>indiquer</i> v., <i>montrer</i>	to indicate, show
<i>jadis</i> adv., <i>autrefois</i>	formerly, in times gone by

<i>jeu</i> n.m., <i>divertissement</i> , n.m.	game, amusement
<i>labourer</i> v., <i>travailler</i>	to labor, work
<i>laisser</i> v., <i>permettre</i>	to allow, permit
<i>lier</i> v., <i>attacher</i>	to tie, attach
<i>lieu</i> n.m., <i>endroit</i> , n.m.	place, spot, location
<i>logis</i> n.m. <i>habitation</i> n.f.	lodging, dwelling
<i>lutter</i> v., <i>combattre</i>	to struggle, fight, combat
<i>maître</i> n.m. <i>instituteur</i> , n.m.	master, teacher, instructor
<i>maîtresse</i> n.f. <i>institutrice</i> , n.f.	mistress, teacher, instructor
<i>mauvais</i> (<i>mauvaise</i>) adj., <i>méchant</i> (<i>méchante</i>)	bad, mean, nasty
<i>mener</i> v., <i>conduire</i>	to lead; to take (someone)
<i>mince</i> adj., <i>grêle</i>	thin, slender, skinny
<i>naïf</i> (<i>naïve</i>) adj., <i>ingénue</i> (<i>ingénue</i>)	naive, simple, innocent
<i>net</i> (<i>nette</i>) adj., <i>propre</i>	neat, clean
<i>noces</i> n.f., <i>mariage</i> n.m.	wedding, marriage
<i>œuvre</i> n.f., <i>travail</i> n.m.	work
<i>ombre</i> n.f., <i>obscurité</i> n.f.	shade, shadow, darkness
<i>ombrelle</i> n.f., <i>parasol</i> n.m.	sunshade, parasol, beach umbrella
<i>parce que</i> conj., <i>car</i>	because, for
<i>pareil</i> (<i>pareille</i>) adj., <i>égal</i> (<i>égale</i>)	similar, equivalent, equal
<i>parvenir à</i> v., <i>réussir à</i>	to succeed, to attain
<i>pays</i> n.m., <i>nation</i> n.f.	country, nation
<i>pensée</i> n.f., <i>idée</i> , n.f.	thought, idea
<i>penser</i> v., <i>réfléchir</i>	to think, reflect
<i>penser à</i> v., <i>songer à</i>	to think of; to dream of
<i>professeur</i> n.m., <i>maître</i> , n.m., <i>maîtresse</i> , n.f.	professor, teacher
<i>puis</i> adv., <i>ensuite</i>	then, afterwards
<i>quand</i> conj., <i>lorsque</i>	when
<i>quelquefois</i> adv., <i>parfois</i>	sometimes, at times
<i>se rappeler</i> v., <i>se souvenir de</i>	to recall, to remember

<i>rester v., demeurer</i>	to stay, to remain
<i>sérieux (sérieuse) adj., grave</i>	serious, grave
<i>seulement adv., ne + verb + que</i>	only
<i>soin n.m., attention n.f.</i>	care, attention
<i>soulier n.m., chaussure n.f.</i>	shoe, footwear
<i>tout de suite adv., immédiatement</i>	right away, immediately
<i>triste adj., malheureux (malheureuse)</i>	sad, unhappy
<i>vêtements n.m., habits, n.m.</i>	clothes, clothing
<i>visage n.m., figure n.f.</i>	face
<i>vite adv., rapidement</i>	quickly, rapidly

Mnemonic tip *Bref* is brief and *court* is short because it contains the English word "curt" (brief, short).

Mnemonic tip *Une chaussure* is a shoe because it contains *sur / on*, and you put it on your foot.

Mnemonic tip *Une chaussette* is a sock because it's something like an anklet(te) sock.

Mnemonic tip *Une parole* is a spoken word because when a prisoner is on "parole" he gives his word that he will behave in a civil manner.

Mnemonic tip When you give someone *conseil*, you give him counsel, advice.

Mnemonic tip When you *embrasser* a person, you put your *bras / arms* around that person.

§18.

Antonyms

Antonyms are words with opposite meanings.

absent (absente) adj., absent	présent (présente) adj., present
acheter v., to buy	vendre v., to sell
agréable adj., pleasant,	désagréable adj., unpleasant, disagreeable
agreeable	
aimable adj., kind	méchant (méchante) adj., mean, nasty
aller v., to go	venir v., to come
ami (amie) n., friend	ennemi (ennemie) n., enemy
s'amuser refl. v., to enjoy	s'ennuyer refl. v., to be bored
oneself, to have a good time	
ancien (ancienne) adj., old,	nouveau (nouvel, nouvelle)
ancient	adj., new
avant prep., before	après prep., after
bas (basse) adj., low	haut (haute) adj., high
beau (bel, belle) adj., beautiful, handsome	laid (laide) adj., ugly
beaucoup (de) adv., much, many	peu (de) adv., little, some
beauté n.f., beauty	laideur n.f., ugliness
bête adj., stupid	intelligent (intelligente) adj., intelligent
bon (bonne) adj., good	mauvais (mauvaise) adj., bad
bonheur n.m., happiness	malheur n.m., unhappiness
chaud (chaude) adj., hot, warm	froid (froide) adj., cold
cher (chère) adj., expensive	bon marché cheap
content (contente) adj., glad, pleased	mécontent (mécontente) adj., displeased

adj.: adjective; adv.: adverb; conj.: conjunction; f.: feminine; m.: masculine;
n.: noun; prep.: preposition; v.: verb

<i>court (courte)</i> adj., short	<i>long (longue)</i> adj., long
<i>début</i> adv., standing	<i>assis (assise)</i> adj., seated, sitting
<i>dedans</i> adv., inside	<i>dehors</i> adv., outside
<i>demander</i> v., to ask	<i>répondre</i> v., to reply
<i>dernier (dernière)</i> adj., last	<i>premier (première)</i> adj., first
<i>derrière</i> adv., prep., behind, in back of	<i>devant</i> adv., prep., in front of
<i>dessous</i> adv., prep., below, underneath	<i>dessus</i> adv., prep., above, over
<i>différent (différente)</i> adj., different	<i>pareil (pareille)</i> adj., same, similar
<i>difficile</i> adj., difficult	<i>facile</i> adj., easy
<i>domestique</i> adj., domestic	<i>sauvage</i> adj., wild
<i>donner</i> v., to give	<i>recevoir</i> v., to receive
<i>droite</i> n.f., right	<i>gauche</i> n.f., left
<i>emprunter</i> v., to borrow	<i>prêter</i> v., to lend
<i>entrer (dans)</i> v., to enter (in, into)	<i>sortir (de)</i> v., to go out (of, from)
<i>est</i> n.m., east	<i>ouest</i> n.m., west
<i>étroit (étroite)</i> adj., narrow	<i>large</i> adj., wide
<i>faible</i> adj., weak	<i>fort (forte)</i> adj., strong
<i>fermer</i> v., to close	<i>ouvrir</i> v., to open
<i>fin</i> n.f., end	<i>commencement</i> n.m., beginning
<i>finir</i> v., to finish	<i>commencer</i> v., to begin; se <i>mettre à</i> v., to begin + inf.
<i>gagner</i> v., to win	<i>perdre</i> v., to lose
<i>gai (gaie)</i> adj., gay, happy	<i>triste</i> adj., sad
<i>grand (grande)</i> adj., large, tall, big	<i>petit (petite)</i> adj., small, little
<i>gros (grosse)</i> adj., fat	<i>maigre</i> adj., thin
<i>grossier (grossière)</i> adj., coarse, impolite	<i>poli (polie)</i> adj., polite
<i>heureux (heureuse)</i> adj., happy	<i>malheureux (malheureuse)</i> adj., unhappy

<i>ici</i> adv., here	<i>là-bas</i> adv., there
<i>inutile</i> adj., useless	<i>utile</i> adj., useful
<i>jamais</i> adv., never	<i>toujours</i> adv., always
<i>jeune</i> adj., young	<i>vieux (vieil, vieille)</i> adj., old
<i>jeunesse</i> n.f., youth	<i>vieillesse</i> n.f., old age
<i>joli (jolie)</i> adj., pretty	<i>laid (laide)</i> adj., ugly
<i>jour</i> n.m., day	<i>nuit</i> n.f., night
<i>léger (légère)</i> adj., light	<i>lourd (lourde)</i> adj., heavy
<i>lentement</i> adv., slowly	<i>vite</i> adv., quickly
<i>mal</i> adv., badly	<i>bien</i> adv., well
<i>moderne</i> adj., modern	<i>ancien (ancienne)</i> adj., ancient, old
<i>moins</i> adv., less	<i>plus</i> adv., more
<i>monter</i> v., to go up	<i>descendre</i> v., to go down
<i>mourir</i> v., to die	<i>naître</i> v., to be born
<i>né (née)</i> adj., past part., born	<i>mort (morte)</i> adj., past part., died, dead
<i>nord</i> n.m., north	<i>sud</i> n.m., south
<i>nouveau (nouvel, nouvelle)</i> adj., new	<i>vieux (vieil, vieille)</i> adj., old
<i>obéir (à)</i> v., to obey	<i>désobéir (à)</i> v., to disobey
<i>ôter</i> v., to remove, to take off	<i>mettre</i> v., to put, to put on
<i>oui</i> adv., yes	<i>non</i> adv., no
<i>paix</i> n.f., peace	<i>guerre</i> n.f., war
<i>paraître</i> v., to appear	<i>disparaître</i> v., to disappear
<i>paresseux (paresseuse)</i> adj., lazy	<i>travailleur (travailleuse)</i> adj., diligent
<i>partir</i> v., to leave	<i>arriver</i> v., to arrive
<i>pauvre</i> adj., poor	<i>riche</i> adj., rich
<i>perdre</i> v., to lose	<i>trouver</i> v., to find
<i>plancher</i> n.m., floor	<i>plafond</i> n.m., ceiling
<i>plein (pleine)</i> adj., full	<i>vide</i> adj., empty
<i>poli (polie)</i> adj., polite	<i>impoli (impolie)</i> adj., impolite
<i>possible</i> adj., possible	<i>impossible</i> adj., impossible
<i>prendre</i> v., to take	<i>donner</i> v., to give

<i>près (de)</i> adv., prep., near	<i>loin (de)</i> adv., prep., far (from)
<i>propre</i> adj., clean	<i>sale</i> adj., dirty
<i>quelque chose</i> pron., something	<i>rien</i> pron., nothing
<i>quelqu'un</i> pron., someone, somebody	<i>personne</i> pron., nobody, no one
<i>question</i> n.f., question	<i>réponse</i> n.f., answer, reply, response
<i>refuser</i> v., to refuse	<i>accepter</i> v., to accept
<i>réussir (à)</i> v., to succeed (at, in)	<i>échouer (à)</i> v., to fail (at, in)
<i>rire</i> v., to laugh	<i>pleurer</i> v., to cry, to weep
<i>sans</i> prep., without	<i>avec</i> prep., with
<i>silence</i> n.m., silence	<i>bruit</i> n.m., noise
<i>souvent</i> adv., often	<i>rarement</i> adv., rarely
<i>sur</i> prep., on	<i>sous</i> prep., under
<i>sûr (sûre)</i> adj., sure, certain	<i>incertain (incertaine)</i> adj., unsure, uncertain
<i>tôt</i> adv., early	<i>tard</i> adv., late
<i>travailler</i> v., to work	<i>jouer</i> v., to play
<i>travailleur (travailleuse)</i> adj., diligent, hardworking	<i>paresseux (paresseuse)</i> adj., lazy
<i>vie</i> n.f., life	<i>mort</i> n.f., death
<i>vivre</i> v., to live	<i>mourir</i> v., to die
<i>vrai (vraie)</i> adj., true	<i>faux (fausse)</i> adj., false

Mnemonic tip

The verb *mourir* (to die) has one *r* because a person dies once; *nourrir* (to nourish) has two *r*'s because a person is nourished more than once.

Mnemonic tip

The word *dessous* (below, underneath) contains *sous* (under).

Mnemonic tip The word *dessus* (above, over) contains *sus*, which reminds you of *sur* (on).

Mnemonic tip *Perdre* means "to lose" because perdition is a place for lost souls.

Mnemonic tip Detroit, a city in Michigan, is on the Detroit River, which is narrow (*étroit*) in spots.

Mnemonic tip A floor (*le plancher*) was originally made of wooden planks.

Mnemonic tip Pronounce *bonne* as in the English word "bun."

Mnemonic tip You "mount" a mountain when you *monter une montagne*.

Mnemonic tip You go **a**way when you *partir* and you go **o**ut when you *sortir*. *Partir* and "away" contain a's. *Sortir* and "go out" contain o's.

Mnemonic tip If you don't know your right from your left, *droite* contains "it" and so does "right."

§19.

Cognates

In addition to studying synonyms in §17. and antonyms in §18., another good way to increase your vocabulary is to become aware of cognates. A *cognate* is a word whose origin is the same as another word in another language. There are many cognates in French and English whose spelling is sometimes identical or very similar. Most of the time, the meaning is the same or similar; sometimes they appear to be related because of similar spelling, but they are not true cognates. You will find a list of these "false cognates" or "tricky words" in §20.

Generally speaking, certain endings, or suffixes, of French words have English equivalents.

EXAMPLES

French Suffix	Equivalent English Suffix	French Word	English Word
-able	-able	<i>adorable</i> } <i>aimable</i> }	adorable
-aire	-ary	<i>le dictionnaire</i>	amiable (likeable)
-eux }	-ous	<i>fameux</i> } <i>fameuse</i> }	dictionary
-ieux }	-ous	<i>gracieux</i> } <i>gracieuse</i> }	famous
-ieuse}	-ous		gracious
-iste	-ist	<i>le (la) dentiste</i>	dentist
-ité	-ity	<i>la qualité</i>	quality
-ment	-ly	<i>correctement</i>	correctly
-mettre	-mit	<i>admettre</i>	admit
-oire	-ory	<i>la mémoire</i>	memory
-phie	-phy	<i>la photographie</i>	photography
-scrire	-scribe	<i>transcrire</i>	transcribe

A French word that contains the circumflex accent (^) over a vowel means that there used to be an s right after that vowel.

EXAMPLES

<i>hâte</i> / haste	<i>hôtel</i> / hostel
<i>pâte</i> / paste	<i>honnête</i> / honest
<i>bâtarde</i> / bastard	<i>plâtre</i> / plaster
<i>bête</i> / beast	<i>île</i> / isle
<i>fête</i> / feast	<i>vêpres</i> / vespers
<i>mât</i> / mast	<i>prêtre</i> / priest

But you don't always get a cognate if you insert an s right after the vowel that contains a circumflex.

EXAMPLES

<i>gâteau</i> / cake	<i>bêler</i> / to bleat
<i>bâtiment</i> / building	<i>âme</i> / soul

Mnemonic tip If you confuse *le gâteau* (cake) with *le bateau* (boat) because you can't remember which one contains the circumflex accent, remember that the ^ in *gâteau* is the icing on top of the cake!

§20.

Tricky Words

"False friends" are look-alikes but have different meanings.

actualités n.f., pl. news reports	<i>fin</i> n.f. end
actuel adj. present, present-day	<i>flèche</i> n.f. arrow
actuellement adv. at present	<i>fort</i> adj., n. strong
addition n.f. bill (check)	<i>four</i> n.m. oven
attendre v. to wait	<i>front</i> n.m. forehead
belle adj., fem. beautiful	<i>grand</i> adj., m. tall, big, large
bénir v. to bless	<i>grave</i> adj. serious
blesser v. to wound	<i>hair</i> v. to hate
bras n.m. arm	<i>journal</i> n.m. newspaper
but n.m. goal	<i>large</i> adj. wide, broad
cabinet n.m. office; study	<i>lecture</i> n.f. reading
car conj. because	<i>librairie</i> n.f. bookstore
causer v. to chat; to cause	<i>magasin</i> n.m. store
cave n.f. cellar, basement	<i>main</i> n.f. hand
chair n.f. flesh	<i>marine</i> n.f. navy; seascape
chat n.m. cat	<i>médecin</i> n.m. doctor, physician
chose n.f. thing	<i>médecine</i> n.f. medicine (study of)
coin n.m. corner	<i>médicament</i> n.m. medicine
comment adv. how	<i>mine</i> n.f. facial appearance
conférence n.f. lecture	<i>monnaie</i> n.f. change (coins)
crâne n.m. skull	<i>on</i> pers. pron. one, some-one, they
crayon n.m. pencil	<i>ours</i> n.m. bear (animal)
dent n.f. tooth	<i>pain</i> n.m. bread
dire v. to say, to tell	<i>pal</i> n.m. pale, stake (for punishment)
dot n.f. dowry	
éditeur n.m. publisher	
essence n.f. gasoline	

<i>par</i> prep. by	<i>rose</i> n. rose
<i>personnel</i> adj. personal	<i>rue</i> n.f. street
<i>pie</i> n.f. magpie (bird)	<i>sable</i> n.m. sand
<i>pile</i> n.f. battery; pile, heap	<i>sale</i> adj. dirty, soiled
<i>place</i> n.f. plaza, place	<i>sensible</i> adj. sensitive
<i>plate</i> adj., fem. flat	<i>son</i> n.m. sound
<i>pour</i> prep. for	<i>stage</i> n.m. training course of study
<i>prune</i> n.f. plum	<i>stylo</i> n.m. pen
<i>pruneau</i> n.m. prune	
<i>raisin</i> n.m. grape	<i>tôt</i> adv. early
<i>raisin sec</i> n.m. raisin	<i>user</i> v. to wear out
<i>râpe</i> n.f. grater (cheese)	<i>vent</i> n.m. wind (air)
<i>rose</i> adj. pink	<i>vie</i> n.f. life

French-English Vocabulary

à prep. at, to

à moins que conj. unless

actif, active adj. active

aéroport n.m. airport

affreusement adv. frightfully

ai v. *form of avoir*

aimable adj. amiable, likeable, pleasant, kind

aimer v. to love; **aimer bien** to like

Allemagne n.f. Germany

allemand n.m. German (language);

Allemand, Allemande n. German
(person)

aller v. to go; **s'en aller** to go away

allez-vous-en! go away!

allons! let's go!

amèrement adv. bitterly

ami, amie n. friend

amour n.m. love

amusant, amusante adj. funny, amusing

an n.m. year

ancien, ancienne adj. old, ancient

anglais n.m. English (language); **Anglais,**
Anglaise n. English (person)

Angleterre n.f. England

appeler v. to call; **s'appeler** reflexive v. to
call oneself, to be named

après prep., adv. after; **après-midi**
afternoon

arbre n.m. tree

argent n.m. money

Asie n.f. Asia

asseoir v. to seat; **s'asseoir** reflexive v. to
sit down; **asseyez-vous!** sit down!

assez (de) adv. enough (of); **assez bien**
quite well, well enough

assieds-toi! sit down!

au to the, at the; contraction of **à + le**

aujourd'hui adv. today

adj.: adjective; adv.: adverb; conj.: conjunction; f.: feminine; m.: masculine; n.: noun;

pl.: plural; prep.: preposition; pron.: pronoun; sing.: singular; v.: verb

182 French-English Vocabulary

aussi *adv.* also, too

aussi . . . que *conj.* as . . . as

Australie *n.f.* Australia

auteur *n.m.* author; **une femme auteur**

woman author

autre *adj.* other; *pron.* another

autrefois *adv.* formerly

aux to the, at the; contraction of à + les

avec *prep.* with

avez *v. form of avoir*

avocat *n.m.* lawyer; **une avocate** woman

lawyer

avoir *v.* to have

bas *n.m.* stocking; *adv.* low; **en bas** down,
downstairs; *adj.* **bas, basse** low

beau *adj.* *m.* handsome, beautiful

beaucoup (de) *adv.* many, much (of)

bel *adj.* *m.* handsome, beautiful

belle *adj.* *f.* beautiful, handsome

bénir *v.* to bless

besoin *n.m.* need; **avoir besoin de** to
need, to have need of

bibliothèque *n.f.* library

bien *adv.* well

bientôt *adv.* soon

billet *n.m.* ticket, note

blanc, blanche *adj.* white

blesser *v.* to injure, to wound

boire *v.* to drink

bon, bonne *adj.* good

bonbons *n.m.* candies

bouche *n.f.* mouth (of a person); **la gueule**
(mouth of an animal)

but *n.m* goal

ça *pron.* shortening of **cela**

cadeau *n.m.* gift, present

café *n.m.* coffee

cahier *n.m.* notebook

campagne *n.f.* country(side)

catholique *n.m.f.* Catholic

ce *demons.* *adj.* this; **ce stylo** this pen; **ce**
livre this book; **ce garçon** this boy

cela *pron.* that; **Aimez-vous cela?** Do you like that?

chanter *v.* to sing

chanteur, chanteuse *n.m.f.* singer

chapeau *n.m.* hat

chaque *adj.* each

chaud, chaude *adj.* warm, hot

chaussette *n.f.* sock

chaussure *n.f.* shoe

chef *n.m.* chief, boss, chef

cheveu, cheveux *n.m.* hair

chez *prep.* at the place of, at the home of,
at the shop of; **chez moi** at my place

choisir *v.* to choose, to select

chose *n.f.* thing; **quelque chose** something

cinéma *n.m.* movies (theater)

clé, clef *n.f.* key

coin *n.m.* corner

combien (de) *adv.* how much (of), how many (of)

comprendre *v.* to understand

copain *n.m.*, **copine** *n.f.* pal, buddy

cravate *n.f.* necktie

crayon *n.m.* pencil

croire *v.* to believe

cruel, cruelle *adj.* cruel

dame *n.f.* lady

dans *prep.* in

de *prep.* of, from

dehors *adv.* outside

déjà *adv.* already; **déjà vu** already seen

dent *n.f.* tooth

depuis *adv.* since; **depuis longtemps** for a long time

dernier, dernière *adj.* last

des of the, from the; contraction of **de + les**; some

dimanche *n.m.* Sunday

dire *v.* to say, to tell; **vouloir dire** to mean

donc *conj.* therefore, consequently

donner *v.* to give

dont *pron.* of which, whose

dormir *v.* to sleep

184 French-English Vocabulary

douche *n.f.* shower (bath)

douter *v.* to doubt

drôle *adj.* funny, droll

du of the, from the; contraction of **de + le**;
some

dû *past participle of devoir*; ought to, must

eau *n.f.* water

école *n.f.* school; **à l'école** in (at, to) school

écouter *v.* to listen (to)

écrire *v.* to write

écrivons *v. form of écrire*

égal, égaux, égale, égales *adj.* equal

église *n.f.* church

en *pron.* of it, of them, some of it, some of
them; *prep.* in

encore *adv.* still, yet, again

encre *n.f.* ink

enregistrer *v.* to record (on a tape, record)

enseigner *v.* to teach

entendre *v.* to hear, to understand

enthousiasme *n.m.* enthusiasm

entre *prep.* between; *also a v. form of
entrer (dans)* to enter (into)

envers *prep.* toward

environ *adv.* nearly, about

envoyer *v.* to send; **envoyer chercher** to
send for

Espagne *n.f.* Spain

espagnol *n.m.* Spanish (language);

Espagnol, Espagnole *n.* Spanish
(person)

est *present indicative of être*

Etats-Unis *n.m. pl.* United States

été *n.m.* summer; *also past participle of être*

être *v.* to be

étudiant, étudiante *n.m.* student

étudier *v.* to study

eu *past participle of avoir*

faim *n.f.* hunger; **avoir faim** to be hungry

faire *v.* to do, to make; **faire un voyage** to
take a trip

falloir *v.* to be necessary; **il faut** it is necessary
faux, fausse *adj.* false
favori, favorite *adj.* favorite
femme *n.f.* woman; when possessive, wife;
 ma femme my wife
fête *n.f.* feast, holiday, party
feu *n.m.* fire; **le feu rouge** red light (traffic)
février *n.m.* February
fille *n.f.* daughter; **la jeune fille** girl; **une école de filles** girls' school
fils *n.m.* son
finir *v.* to finish, to end
forêt *n.f.* forest
fourchette *n.f.* fork
français *n.m.* French (language); **Français, Française** *n.* French (person)
franchement *adv.* frankly
frère *n.m.* brother
fromage *n.m.* cheese
fuir *v.* to flee, to run away; *past participle* **fui**

garçon *n.m.* boy
gâteau *n.m.* cake
gentil, gentille *adj.* nice, pleasant
gentiment *adv.* gently
gomme *n.f.* eraser (rubber)
grand, grande *adj.* great, big, large; **un grand magasin** department store
Grande Bretagne *n.f.* Great Britain
gris, grise *adj.* gray
gros, grosse *adj.* big, fat, large

heureusement *adv.* fortunately, happily
heureux, heureuse *adj.* happy
homme *n.m.* man
honneur *n.m.* honor
huître *n.f.* oyster

ici *adv.* here
île *n.f.* isle, island
immeuble *n.m.* apartment building

interrompre *v.* to interrupt

italien *n.m.* Italian (language); **Italien**,
Italienne *n.* Italian (person)

janvier *n.m.* January

jeune *adj.* young

jeune fille *n.f.* girl

joli, jolie *adj.* pretty

jouer *v.* to play

jouet *n.m.* toy

jour *n.m.* day

journal *n.m.* newspaper

journée *n.f.* (all) day (long)

la *definite article, f.* the; also direct object

pronoun, *f. sing.* it, her

laid, laide *adj.* ugly

laideur *n.f.* ugliness

laver *v.* to wash (something or someone);

se **laver** *reflex. verb* to wash oneself

le *definite article, m.* the; also direct object

pronoun, *m. sing.* it, him

lent, lente *adj.* slow

lentement *adv.* slowly

les *definite article, m. and f.* the; also direct

object pronoun, *m. and f., pl.* them

(people or things)

leur *possessive adj.* their; also indirect

object pron. to them

lire *v.* to read; past participle **lu**

lit *n.m.* bed; also present indicative, 3d

person sing. of **lire**

livre *n.m.* book; **la livre** pound

Londres *n.m.* London

long, longue *adj.* long

longtemps *adv.* long time; **depuis long-**

temps since a long time, for a long time

lorsque *adv.* when; synonym of **quand**

lui *indirect object pron., 3d person sing.* to

him, to her

lundi *n.m.* Monday

- ma** possessive adj., f. sing. my; **ma maison**
my house
- magasin** n.m. store; **un grand magasin**
department store
- magazine** n.m. magazine
- maintenant** adv. now
- mais** conj. but
- maison** n.f. house
- malheur** n.m. unhappiness
- malheureusement** n.f. unfortunately
- manger** v. to eat
- marcher** v. to walk, to march, to run
(a machine)
- mardi** n.m. Tuesday
- mars** n.m. March
- matin** n.m. morning; **le matin** in the morning
- médecin** n.m. doctor
- médecine** n.f. medicine (profession)
- médicament** n.m. medicine (that you take)
- meilleur, meilleure** adj. better
- mer** n.f. sea
- mère** n.f. mother
- mettre** v. to put, to place; to put on (clothing)
- mieux** adv. better
- monnaie** n.f. change (money); coins
- monsieur** n.m. gentleman, sir, Mr.
- mourir** v. to die

- naître** v. to be born; *past participle né*
- natation** n.f. swimming
- noir, noire** adj. black
- nom** n.m. name
- nouveau, nouvel, nouvelle** adj. new

- œil** n.m. eye; **les yeux** eyes
- œuf** n.m. egg
- oiseau** n.m. bird
- on** personal pron., 3d person sing. one (they)
- oser** v. to dare
- ou** conj. or; **où** adv. where
- ouvrir** v. to open; *past participle ouvert*

188 French-English Vocabulary

- pain** *n.m.* bread
papier *n.m.* paper
par *prep.* by; **par terre** on the floor, on the ground
parapluie *n.m.* umbrella
parc *n.m.* park
paresse *n.f.* laziness
paresseux, paresseuse *adj.* lazy
parler *v.* to talk, to speak
partir *v.* to leave; *past participle parti*
passer *v.* to spend (time); to go by, to pass by, to pass
pendant *prep.* during; **pendant que** *conj.* while
perdre *v.* to lose; *past participle perdu(e)(s)*
père *n.m.* father
perspicacité *n.f.* perspicacity, insight
peu (de) *adv.* little (of)
peur *n.f.* fear; **avoir peur** to be afraid, to feel afraid
peut *present indicative of pouvoir*
pied *n.m.* foot; **aller à pied** to walk
plage *n.f.* beach, seashore
pleuvoir *v.* to rain; *past participle plu*
plus *adv.* more; **plus de, plus que** more than
plusieurs *adv.* several
poule *n.f.* hen
poupée *n.f.* doll
pousser *v.* to push, to bud (flowers)
pouvoir *v.* to be able, can
précise *adj.* precise, precisely
prendre *v.* to take
presse *n.f.* press (printing)
public, publique *adj.* public
puis *adv.* then

- quand** *adv.* when; *synonym of lorsque*
quel, quelle, quels, quelles *adj.* which, what
quelque(s) *adj.* some; **quelque chose** something
quelquefois *adv.* sometimes
qui *pron.* who, whom

qui est-ce *qui* *pron.* who

quitter *v.* to leave (a person or place)

quoi *pron.* what (as obj. of a prep.); **avec**
 quoi with what

rang *n.m.* rank, row

restaurant *n.m.* restaurant

rire *v.* to laugh; laughter

robe *n.f.* dress

rose *n.f.* rose; *adj.* pink

rue *n.f.* street

samedi *n.m.* Saturday

sans *prep.* without

se *reflexive pron.* himself, herself, oneself

sec, sèche *adj.* dry

seize sixteen

semaine *n.f.* week

si *conj.* if

sœur *n.f.* sister

soir *n.m.* evening; **le soir** in the evening

son *n.m.* sound; *possessive adj.* his, her, its

sont *v.* *form of être*

sous *prep.* under

souvent *adv.* often

stylo *n.m.* pen

sucette *n.f.* lollipop; **sucer** *v.* to suck

sur *prep.* on

tenir *v.* to hold

thé *n.m.* tea

très *adv.* very

trop (de) *adv.* too much (of), too many (of)

trouver *v.* to find; **se trouver** *reflexive v.* to
 be located

tuer *v.* to kill

un *indefinite article, m. sing.* a, an (one);

fem., une

190 French-English Vocabulary

vacances *n.f.pl.* vacation; **les grandes**

vacances summer vacation

vache *n.f.* cow

vais present indicative of *aller*

vendre *v.* to sell

venir *v.* to come

vent *n.m.* wind; **il fait du vent** it's windy

viande *n.f.* meat

vient present indicative of *venir*

vieux, vieil, vieille *adj.* old

vin *n.m.* wine

vingt twenty

voir *v.* to see; *past participle vu*

voyage *n.m.* trip; **faire un voyage** to take a

trip, go on a trip; **Bon voyage!** Have a
good trip!

y adverbial pron. there, in it, on it

yeux *n.m.* eyes; l'œil the eye

zèbre *n.m.* zebra

Index

References are to § numbers in this book.

à §3.1; in idioms §12.2

acheter §7.17

adjectives §5; used in an adverbial sense §5.4–7

adverbs §8.

ago §12.1

aller fully conjugated §7.19; aller in idioms §12.2

antonyms §18.

apprendre §7.17

approximate amounts §16.

arithmetical expressions §16.

articles §3.

au §3.1; au (aux) in idioms §12.2

auquel §6.1–10

avoir §7.3–1; fully conjugated §7.19; avoir in
idioms §12.2

pas in idioms §12.2

beaucoup (de) §8.3–2

bel, belle, beau, beaux §5.1

bien in idioms §12.2

boire §7.17

bon in idioms §12.2

ça §6.1–8, §12.2
capitalization §2.1
cardinal numbers §16.
causative (causal) *faire* §7.14
ce, c' §6.1–8, §12.2
ceci, cela §6.1–8, §12.2
celui, celle §6.1–8
cent §3.2
c'est §6.1–14, §12.2
ceux §6.1–8
-ci §6.1–8
cognates §19.
combien (de) §8.3–2, §3.1
command: see imperative
comparative: of adjectives §5.4–5; of adverbs §8.3–3
comprendre, entendre §7.11
conjunctions §10. with subjunctive §7.15
connaitre, savoir §7.11
continents, used with prepositions §3.1
countries, used with prepositions §3.1

d' in idioms §12.2
dans + length of time §9.1
dates §13.
days of the week §2., §3.1, §13.
de §3.1; after a superlative §5.4–5; in idioms §12.2
definite article §3.1; with parts of body and articles
of clothing §3.1
demonstrative adjectives §5.4–2
demonstrative pronouns §6.1–8
depuis §12.1
des §3.1
description (in the past) §7.8–2
descriptive adjectives §5.4–1
devoir: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11

direct object pronouns §6.1–2, §11.

disjunctive pronouns §6.1–7

dont §6.1–13

double object pronouns §6.1–4, §11.

du §3.1; in idioms §12.2

écrire §7.17

en §6.1–5; in idioms §12.2; + present participle

§7.4; *en* + length of time §9.1

entendre, comprendre §7.11

être §7.3–1; fully conjugated §7.19; in idioms

§12.2

faire causative (causal) §7.14; *faire* in idioms §12.2;

fully conjugated §7.19

falloir §7.11, §7.17

false cognates §20.

family name, with definite article §3.1

fractions §16.

future tense, forms of §7.8–4, §7.8–11

idioms §12.

"if" clauses: see *si* clause.

il y a §12.1

imperative §7.8–15, §11.4, §11.5

indefinite pronouns §6.1–9

indirect object pronouns §6.1–3, §11.

infinitives §7.13

interrogative adjectives §5.4–3

interrogative pronouns §6.1–10

intransitive verbs §7.3–3

jouer à, jouer de §7.5*laisser* §7.11

languages, capitalization of §2.1; used with definite article §3.1

le: neuter pronoun §6.1–16

lequel: interrogative pronoun §6.1–10; relative pronoun §6.1–13

lui: disjunctive pronoun §6.1–7; indirect object pronoun §6.1–3; with other object pronouns §11.

meilleur §5.4–6

mieux §5.4–6; in idioms §12.2

months of the year, capitalization of §2.1; list of §13.

nationalities, capitalization of §2.1

negations §11.1, §7.18

nouns §4.

numbers §16.

on §6.1–1, §6.1–9

order of words in French sentences §11.

ordinal numbers §16.

oui or *si* §8.4

par, in idioms §12.2
partir; spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11
partitive §3.3
parts of body and articles of clothing with definite
 article §3.1, §5.4–4
passive voice §7.9
past participles: agreement §7.1; formation §7.2
plus, in idioms §12.2
possessive adjectives §5.4–4

possessive pronouns §6.1–11
pouvoir: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11
prepositions, special use of §9.; with definite article
 §3.1; with verbs §7.5
present participles §7.4
pronouns §6.
pronunciation of French sounds §1.
punctuation marks §2.2

quel, *quelle*, *quels*, *quelles* §3.2, §5.4–3, §12.2
quelque chose in idioms §12.2
qu'est-ce que §6.1–10
quitter §7.11
quoi in idioms §12.2

reflexive pronouns §6.1–12
relative pronouns §6.1–13
religions, capitalization of §2.1
rien in idioms §12.2

- savoir*: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11
seasons §13.
si clause §7.10
si or *oui* §8.4
sortir: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11
sounds, pronunciation of French §1.
spelling irregularities in verb forms §7.17
subject pronouns §6.1–1
subjunctive: forms §7.8–6, §7.8–7, §7.8–13,
§7.8–14; uses §7.15
superlative: of adjectives §5.4–5; of adverbs
§8.3–3
syllables §2.3
synonyms §17.
- tant*, in idioms §12.2
telling time §14.
tenses and moods in French §7.8; with English
equivalents §7.16

tous, tout, toute in idioms §12.2
transitive verbs §7.3–2
tricky words §20.

venir: fully conjugated §7.7; spelling changes in
§7.17; *venir de* §7.5
verbs and tenses §7.
voici and *voilà* §12.1
vouloir: spelling changes in §7.17; uses §7.11

weather expressions §15.
word division §2.3
word order of elements in French sentences §11.
y §6.1–6, §11.; in idioms §12.2; *il y a* §12.1

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